

# Cabinet determined not to give in to firemen's claim

The Cabinet decided yesterday not to relax the firm line taken by Mr Rees, Home Secretary, in face of the firemen's threatened national strike, due to start on Monday. Talks between the employers and the Fire Brigades Union will con-

tinue today. Ministers have made clear that they will be available over the weekend to make the most of any opportunity that may arise to settle the dispute over the firemen's claim for an outright 30 per cent wage rise.

## Ministers await talks outcome

By Our Political Correspondent

The Cabinet decided yesterday after a two-and-a-half-hour review of the possible consequences of a national strike by firemen from next Monday that the Government could do nothing at present to get a negotiated settlement. But it was made clear afterwards that ministers would be standing by during the weekend to make the most of any opportunity to get the strike called off.

Much of the Cabinet's time was spent discussing the deployment of the fire-fighting service to be provided by the Forces and the official advice that is to be offered by the Home Office.

Mr Rees, Home Secretary, who is in constant touch with officials organizing emergency action, may make a television and radio broadcast today. It was being said tonight that a decision would be made late in the day "to see if there is a chance of light". The object was not to provoke more serious trouble.

Ministers have been heartened so far by the number of brigades that have said they will not strike. Firm line: After a fresh meeting between Mr Rees and both sides of the fire service's national joint council it was clear that the Government was holding fast to its firm line on firemen's pay (Ian Macintyre writes).

Mr Rees had seen Mr Trenchard, general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, and Mr Brian Rushbridge, secretary of the employers' side of the council, for about an hour at the Home Office. Indications were that there had been little movement towards averting the strike.

The meeting came after talks, which are to continue today, between the employers and the union on a possible formula to regulate firemen's pay in future.

A commitment to finding such a formula is part of the employers' offer, along with a 10 per cent immediate pay increase and a progressive basing of the working week from next autumn.

It remained doubtful last night whether even broad agreement on a formula would be enough to avert a strike.

Training of men in all three services continued at times throughout the country yesterday. The core of the Ministry of Defence's contingency plans are the 700

Home Office so-called "green goddess" fire appliances, mostly about 20 years old and designed for Civil Defence use. Although well maintained, they lack the high ladders and advanced turntable equipment of modern fire engines.

The Ministry of Defence declined to estimate the number of servicemen who would be deployed for fire-fighting, or whether troops would be brought back from abroad, but it is believed that about 11,000 men will be standing by.

Defence preparations: The Ministry of Defence is planning to send between 70 and 80 trained fire-fighters to Northern Ireland this weekend in preparation for next week's strike (our Defence Correspondent writes).

The men are mostly Royal Navy and RAF personnel who have specialized in fire fighting as part of their service training. This means that they have been trained by the fire service on special service courses and have some qualifications in the work.

It is expected that they will act as fire chiefs for army teams that may have to deal with dangerous fires in Belfast and Londonderry. The IRA decides to use incendiaries in the two main cities next week. It is hoped that part-time firemen in the rest of the province will work normally.

Army experts' reply: It is still not clear whether men employed in the Army Fire Service will join the strike (the Press Association reports).

The service, which has 85 officers and 1,200 men, comprises civilians who are attached to certain army camps, particularly those where dangerous materials, such as ammunition, are stored. They are members of the Institute of Professional and Civil Servants and the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Mr William Haughton, chief fire officer of Oxfordshire, said the strike posed the most serious threat Britain had ever faced in peacetime. Mr Anthony Stockford, Oxfordshire representative of the FBU, said: "We know people are going to die and this is a terrible thing. I do not want to let people burn and it is tragic that things have come to this. I hope the strike can still be averted."

Mr Horace Carter, leader of the Fire Brigades Union Council, said London faced a critical situation if the strike went ahead. All 11 London fire stations would cease operation.

conducted on November 5 and 6. People were asked whether they thought the Government's "battle to beat inflation" should be supported. The replies were: should, 87 per cent; should not, 7 per cent; don't know, 6 per cent.

To the question, whether, in the event of a referendum, interviewees would vote for or against the Government's taking a strong line with powerful groups like the miners who tried to obtain increases above average, the replies were: for, 85 per cent; against, 9 per cent; don't know, 6 per cent.

Asked whether they would still be in favour of the Government's policy if it meant a miserable winter, with power cuts and perhaps a three-day week, the 85 per cent who had expressed support replied as follows: would, 74 per cent; would not, 6 per cent; don't know, 5 per cent.

Parliamentary report, page 6

## Leader of power men admits defeat

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Reporter

The power workers' dispute is virtually over, and last night Mr David Smith, leader of the rebels, said: "We have lost the battle and we should accept the fact. The public, the Government and the TUC are all against us."

However, today the 26 members of the national shop stewards committee will vote on a motion from its militant Yorkshire area for an all-out strike, a move that looks like a desperate effort to pump new life into a dying dispute.

Only three of the country's 137 stations were out of action yesterday: Elyth, Northumbria; Fiddler's Ferry, Cheshire; and Wyfla, Anglesey.

But Thorpe Marsh, South Yorkshire; Ferrybridge C, West Yorkshire; and Drax, North Yorkshire, along with Shelton Grange, near Leeds, voted to go back. Those decisions were a serious blow to the Yorkshire stewards, who have led the dispute from the outset.

The Central Electricity Generating Board confirmed a rapid return to work by the rebel workers throughout yesterday.

The Eggborough station in North Yorkshire is the only large station that has firmly supported the Yorkshire area's call for a total stoppage, but it is being operated by engineers and managers.

The Electricity Council said there had been some short blackouts yesterday and that it did not think there would need to be any today.

It has been in the river since Sunday.

A British Army motor launch, with fishery officials on board, unsuccessfully trying to induce a whale to leave the Foyle at Londonderry, Northern Ireland, for the open sea. The whale, which has been nicknamed "Dopey Dick" and is believed to be ailing, did not seem anxious to pass under the Craigavon bridge.

Thatcher protest over devolution tactics

By Fred Emery and George Clark

The Government yesterday confirmed its shock tactics to force the Scottish and Welsh devolution Bills to immediate ratification next week, and the Conservatives affected great outrage.

It was totally unreasonable, a motion in the House, Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, protested to Mr Foot, Leader of the House. Her complaint was that Mr Foot was proposing only one day each for the second reading of each Bill, next Monday and Tuesday, before dropping guillotine time-table motions on both on Wednesday.

In vain did Mr Francis Pym, Conservative spokesman for devolution and House of Commons affairs, appeal for one more day for each Bill. He suggested that there was no precedent for a constitutional Bill to be dealt with in that way. Mr Foot did not accept one either but he insisted that there would be time enough, apparently 30 days in all at committee and report stages for both Bills, with more time for Scotland than for Wales.

The furor in the Chamber was the facade for a great deal of rebellious conspiring. One evaded was: would the

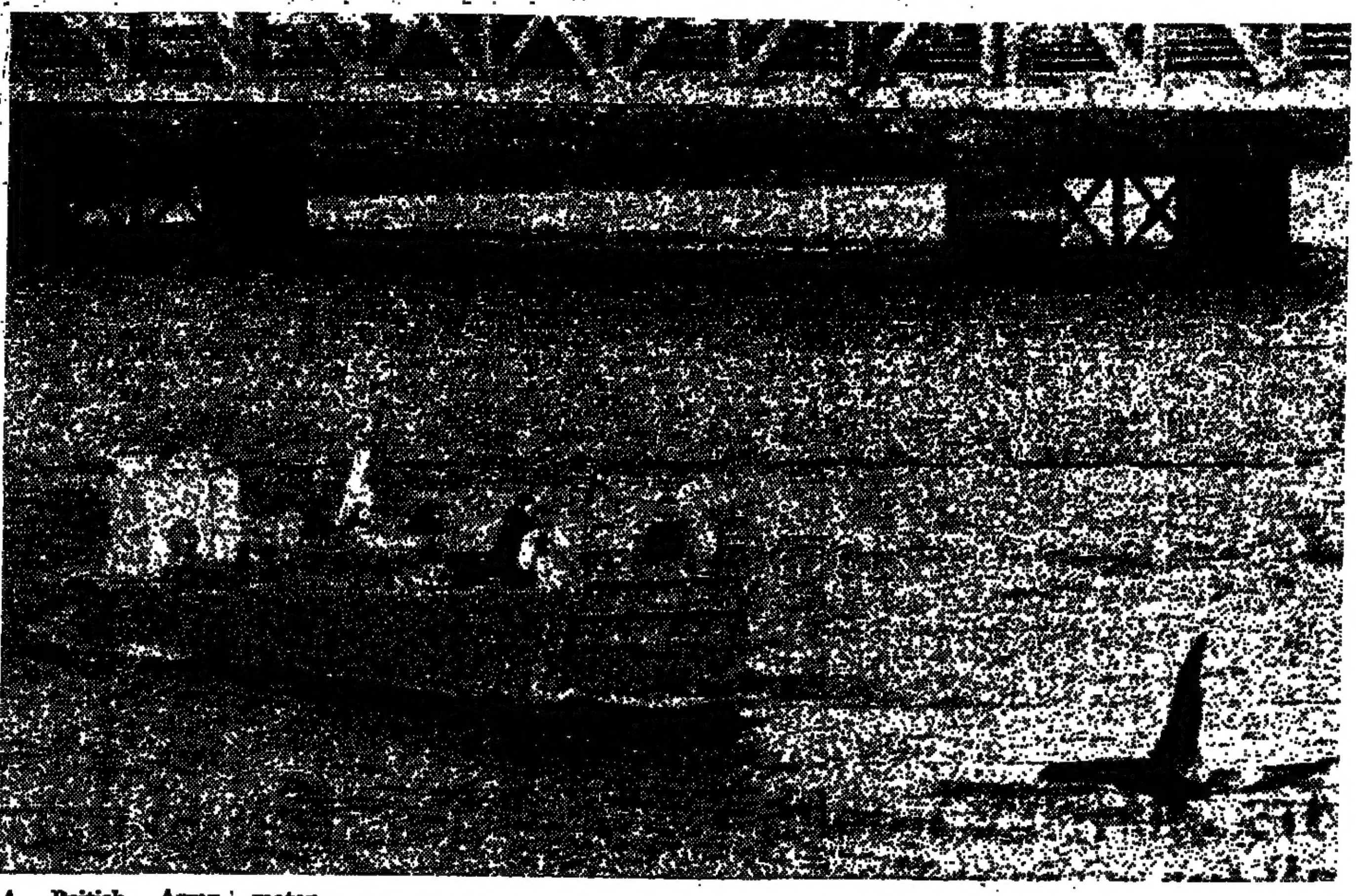
Prime Minister make the guillotine an issue of confidence and so bring his rebels into line? Even the toughest of Labour's anti-devolutionists suggested that his tally of 17 opponents, with more to come from a score of possible abstainers, might stall away into the government lobby if it was made an issue of confidence.

There were hints that Mr Callaghan would make clear how seriously he would regard a defeat for such an important piece of legislation. But, surprisingly, the two Bills and the guillotine were not mentioned at last night's meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party, attended by about seventy backbenchers. Mr Callaghan was there in case anyone should raise these issues.

According to Mr Cledwyn Hughes, chairman of the party, Mrs Thatcher was looking for a fight and in good form. There was no mention of next week's crucial vote.

Mr Hughes offered his own explanation: "I understand that the whips are not showing any concern about the vote on this occasion; they are reasonably satisfied that the Government will win a respectable majority."

"There is no great head of steam on this at the moment. Continued on page 2, col 1



Chancellor exultant over financial revival

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent

Mr Healey was in buoyant mood, speaking of "the astonishing improvement in our financial situation" as he opened a debate in the Commons yesterday on the economic measures he introduced last month. Everything now was going for Britain if only fortune in the fight against inflation could be maintained. He predicted "with confidence" that the rate of inflation would be brought down to 12 or 13 per cent by the end of the year and into single figures a few months later.

For the first time the Chancellor gave the House some firm predictions about unemployment trends over the coming months and years. Last month's measures, he said, should reduce unemployment by about 110,000 by the first quarter of 1979. But it was no longer possible to state with confidence the relationship between output and unemployment and he doubted whether the drop in unemployment last month would be continued.

He was prepared to predict that unemployment would begin to fall steadily next year, but he could not say in which month that fall would begin. If Britain could achieve a 3 per cent growth in gross domestic product next year he expected to see a slow and steady fall in unemployment after the usual time lag.

He hoped to be able to give a further stimulus to the economy in his Budget in the Spring, either by a further rise in tax thresholds or by the introduction of a reduced band of income tax.

Mr Geoffrey Howe, QC, shadow Chancellor, showed only too clearly how concerned the Tory leaders must be at the improving prospects for the Government and the consequent harm to their electoral hopes.

His lack of material was soon evident as he continued the sterile argument that has been going on now for several days about the cost of living and its decline since the last general election. The argument is based on something that the Prime Minister did not say during his speech on the first day of the new session.

To argue about something that Mr Callaghan did say would be one thing, but for shadow chancellors to waste time complaining about something he did not say indicated that Sir Geoffrey was running out of economic weaponry.

Parliamentary report, page 6

Warmest since 1946 in London

Yesterday's maximum temperature of 18.2°C (64.8°F) was the highest November temperature recorded at the London weather centre since November 4, 1946, when it reached 19°C (66°F).

Forecasters, page 2

## Mr Carter refuses to blame Israel for raid

From Patrick Brogan  
Washington, Nov 10

President Carter refused this morning to blame Israel for its air attack on Palestinian targets in Lebanon yesterday. He told a press conference that the new outbreak of violence was of great concern to the American Government and showed the urgency of calling the Geneva Middle East peace conference.

He said that there would be no solution to the problem until the leaders of both sides went beyond procedural questions and agreed to sit down together to discuss the fundamental issues.

He welcomed President Sadat's statement in Cairo that he was determined to go to Geneva, or even Jerusalem, whatever the procedural difficulties. He said that he hoped that Jordan, Syria and Lebanon would quickly make a similar response.

Asked whether Israel's attack was justified, he replied that it was difficult for him to answer. The question was whether Israel could sit dormant and quiescent and accept repeated attacks on its border villages without retaliation, and whether the retaliation was excessive.

He said that some retaliation might be required but the overriding consideration was not to condemn Israel but to observe that if there had been no attacks there would have been no retaliation and that it was essential for the nations concerned to negotiate an end to the crisis.

Mr Carter was asked about the case of Mr Richard Helms, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, who was recently let off with a \$2,000 (£1,100) fine (which his former colleagues paid for him) on charges of misleading Senate committees. The President said that Mr Helms's conviction "was not a badge of honour, and a public official does not have the right to lie."

He went on to explain that the Helms case was difficult because three different objectives had to be reconciled: the law had to be upheld, the trustfulness of witnesses to congressional committees had to be ensured and national security had to be protected. He said that the decision the Attorney-General took was the right one.

Mr Helms pleaded "no contest" to two minor charges when all others were dropped. His lawyer described the resulting sentence as "a badge of honour". The phrase has grated on many liberal sensibilities, but in the debate here on the matter, Mr Helms's friends are doing quite as well as his critics.

The friends contend that Mr Helms played by the rules as they were established in 1973, and that he should not be punished under a new set of rules. He was obeying orders.

Sadat speech response, page 9

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Forecasters, page 2

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## Mr Callaghan welcomes poll backing on pay aim

By Our Political Correspondent

An opinion poll indicating that the public and its powerful groups trying to get wage increases above the Government's 10 per cent guideline was welcomed by the Prime Minister yesterday as "one of the most convincing and remarkable I have seen in many years".

If it was accurate, it showed that the overwhelming majority of the people did not want to see anything more than moderate wage and earnings increases in the present year, he told the Commons.

Not while he welcomed that support, he thought it would be going to "create an atmosphere of tension with many groups, one of which will name, who are serious difficulties and minor claims".

The poll was made out by Opinion Research Centre, and the results were published yesterday. Interviews with a quota sample of 996 electors were

conducted on November 5 and 6. People were asked whether they thought the Government's "battle to beat inflation" should be supported. The replies were: should, 87 per cent; should not, 7 per cent; don't know, 6 per cent.

To the question, whether, in the event of a referendum, interviewees would vote for or against the Government's taking a strong line with powerful groups like the miners who tried to obtain increases above average, the replies were: for, 85 per cent; against, 9 per cent; don't know, 6 per cent.

Asked whether they would still be in favour of the Government's policy if it meant a miserable winter, with power cuts and perhaps a three-day week, the 85 per cent who had expressed support replied as follows: would, 74 per cent; would not, 6 per cent; don't know, 5 per cent.

Parliamentary report, page 6

## Tories relishing Government's coming troubles over EEC elections Bill

By Fred Emery  
Political Editor

The new, or recycled, European Assembly Elections Bill was published yesterday. It will be at the centre of action in the Commons this week, next, with the prospect of the same rapid-fire votes on second reading and guillotine motions that the Government intends next week for the Scotland and Wales Bills.

Conservatives, while refusing to commit themselves to a guillotine to speed the Bill on its way, are committed to direct European elections, but they are relishing a fierce conflict between the Government and its anti-European backbenchers.

The main feature of the Bill remains the choice between the "regional list" system, with its feature of the traditional "first past the post" system.

Both Government and the Opposition are allowing a free vote and the regional list proposal, which the Government purports to favour, is expected to be defeated.

The Liberals, whose demands for a crack at proportional representation are being accommodated, welcome the passage of the Bill. It is essentially the form that got a second reading last session. That was a virtual test run, and the Bill lapsed for want of time.

However, the Liberals will not be happy that the Government has still not decided how ministers will vote on the election method. Liberals believe that because the Government favours, and the Bill formally proposes as a first choice, the regional list system, the Cabinet ought to have the courage of its intentions, if not convictions.

But senior ministers say a free vote is indivisible; thus it is most unlikely that the Cabinet will be commanded to vote for proportional representation.

The Conservatives logically ought to vote for the guillotine timetable motion because they complain that time is running out if Britain's commitment to the Convention is to be met. The date of next May is to be met.

But Mrs Thatcher, leader of the Opposition, now believes that there can be no election by the target date, whatever the method of election. She sees no point in helping the Government, especially when Mr Foot, the Leader of the House, has not even taken the first opportunity for debate, Monday, November 21. Instead, he has allocated that as the first day of supply, far opposition time.

Mrs Thatcher believes there should be full debate on the election method before a guillotine; and that Mr Foot is most unlikely to allow.

The Government stands by its position that elections can be held next year, but only under the regional list system.

Present system praised, page 2

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Letters: On standing up to strikes, from Sir Kenneth Corley and the Reverend M. Eyles; on the devolution vote, from Mr George Cunningham, MP; and on mapping archaeological, from the Director General of the Ordnance Survey

Leisure articles: How to spend the oil money; Competition in the air; Bottom translated - into Chinese  
Features, pages 14 and 16  
Charles Harcourt on the silent witnesses to the horrors of war; Mario Modiano says that personalities matter more than parties to the Greek voter  
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Philip French on new films in London; Alan Coren and Michael Church on television; Ned Challen on David Rudkin's *The Sons of*

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## Rail fares to rise by 14.5% on January 1

All fares will go up by an average of 5 per cent from January 1 and by 15 per cent on commuter services in the southeast. There will also be above-average rises for high-speed trains. The Commission, which approved the fares, said it was concerned about the rise in commuter fares and would continue to investigate them.

new ICI chairman

Maurice Hodgson has been named as chairman of ICI. He will succeed Lord Rutherford of Newbury, who has retired. Mr Hodgson, 58, is a director of ICI since 1974. He was previously chairman of the company's three deputy chairmen. He will probably take home about £100,000 a year. Mr Hodgson, 62, has been chairman for 21 years.

## Lord Carver reports

Lord Carver returned to London yesterday to report on his Rhodesia mission. He denied he had been given "the brush off" in his talks in Africa, and identified two areas of disagreement over the settlement plan. In Salisbury, celebrations have begun to mark the twelfth anniversary of Mr Smith's unilateral declaration of independence.

Kidnapping in Vienna

Kidnappers in Vienna seized Herr Walter Palmers, aged 74, whose family owns more than 100 clothes shops in Austria. A ransom of £1.5m was demanded. Police believe the gang are common criminals and not political terrorists. Herr Palmers suffers from a heart complaint.

Rare wine in US

About 500 bottles of French wines of the nineteenth century have been found in a cellar at an old mansion in Albany, capital of New York state. They are said to be in good condition and could be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

## Miners divided

Leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers are divided on how to proceed with their claim for a 90 per cent pay increase from November 1. They are also investigating possibilities for local productivity deals in areas that did not reject the idea in the recent ballot.

Publishing takeover

Trafalgar House, which recently bought Beaverbrook Newspapers, is expanding its publishing interest further with an agreed £20.5m takeover for magazine publishers Morgan-Graham. The offer is conditional on there being no reference of the takeover to the Monopolies Commission.

General Synod: Delegates expressed solidarity with the Christian Institute, recently banned by the South African Government.

Paris: French envoy to resume talks on hostages held in Western Sahara.

Windhoek: South African troops kill 10 Namibian guerrillas near Angola border.

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Obituary, page 17  
Mr John Priday  
Sport, pages 11 and 12  
Rugby Union: Peter West examines New Zealand's chances, against France; Cricket: Boycott is unanimously re-elected captain of Yorkshire  
Business News, pages 18-24  
Stock markets: Shares gained ground and the FT index closed at 4397  
Financial Editor: Real growth from Booms; W. H. Smith a Jubilee bonus  
Business features: Michael Posner contributes the final article in a series by leading economists on the implications for Britain of North Sea oil  
Business Diary: A smooth change at the top of ICI

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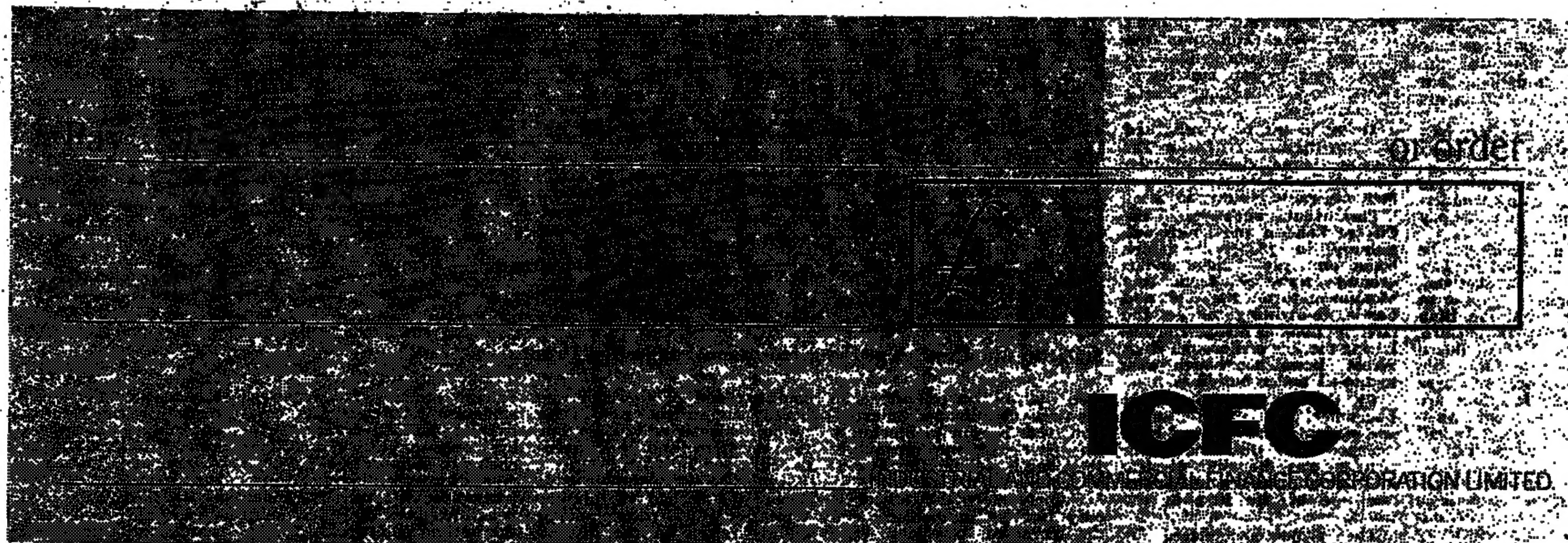






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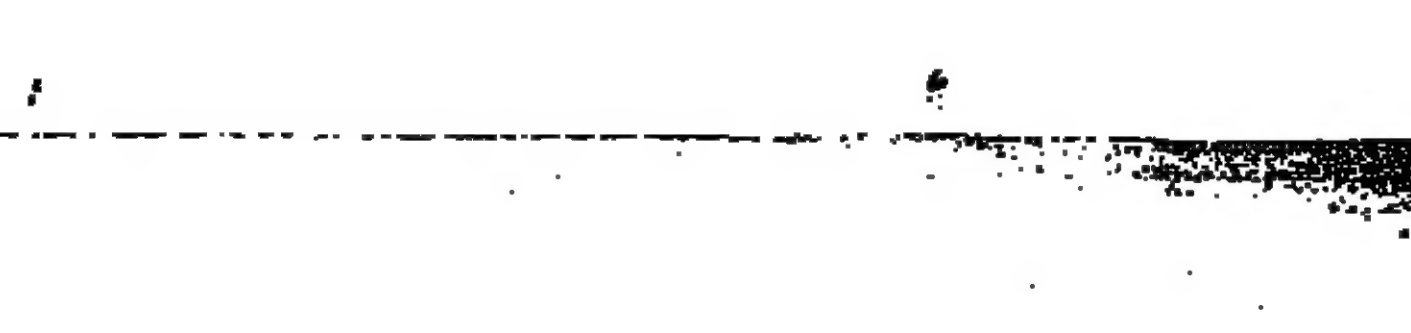
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A large, dense crowd of people, mostly men in suits, gathered for a formal event. The image is very dark and grainy, with many faces and figures overlapping, creating a sense of a massive assembly.



## HOME NEWS

## Tribunal on public record aims envisaged

By Peter Hennessy

The appointment of a team of three to review public record policy is being considered in Whitehall. A committee of permanent secretaries, chaired by Sir Douglas Allen, Head of the Home Civil Service, has been set up, and is expected to put its recommendations to ministers early in the new year.

The committee will probably be the successor to a former permanent secretaries' committee under the late Sir James Glegg, which reported in 1954.

Last week Sir Douglas met a committee of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee, which represents the concerns of government archivists. Last year it unsuccessfully pressed for another Griggs-type inquiry. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Elwyn-Jones, ruled it out on the ground of cost.

Ministers repeated the question after a debate in the Lords last May and a lengthy correspondence in *The Times* which brought to light many imperfections in the system and voiced the deep disquiet of the historical profession about the present arrangements.

Leading the delegation from the advisory committee at last week's meeting was its chairman, Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls. With him were Lord Trevelyan, former Secretary of the Cabinet, and now Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford (with his experience of government and lively concern for public records he would be a natural choice to head a tribunal), Lord Taylor, the senior judge, and Mrs Margaret Gowing, official historian of the United Atomic Energy Authority and Professor of the History of Science at Oxford University.

Representing Whitehall alongside Sir Douglas Allen were Sir John Hunt, Secretary of the Cabinet, Sir Michael Palliser, Head of the Diplomatic Service, and Mr Wilfred Bourne, Permanent Secretary to the Lord Chancellor's Department.

Lord Denning and his colleagues published before the committee issues that have been worrying scholars for years. Prominent among their arguments was the need to improve the quality of civil servants assigned to sifting or "weeding" documents before their destruction or retention to avoid the elapse of the 30-year rule.

Among developments since the Griggs report and the Public Record Act, 1958, which encouraged its findings in statute, to which Lord Denning and his colleagues referred, were the transformation in the copying and storing of material effected by the advent of the computer and the photocopying machine. The growing public demand for greater openness was also in mind.

The number and shape of government departments has changed so rapidly that the work of the departmental record officer has been made more difficult. The proliferation of semi-governmental agencies has further complicated the keeping of records, the advisory committee believes.

So far, Sir Douglas Allen's committee has treated the matter as one of routine administrative "tidying up". It is reluctant to commission a large-scale inquiry on the Griggs pattern and believes a government archive service, which money on the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee would like to see, would be both costly and unnecessary.

## DPP apologizes to girl after miscarriage case

A girl aged 13 convicted under a 1916-year-old Act for trying to give birth by misadventure received an apology yesterday from the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr Kenneth Dowling, assistant director, said the advice to prosecute the girl was "wrong" and that he was "greatly regretted". Her conviction is likely to be quashed.

The girl was given a two-year imprisonment order in Leamington Spa in September. She had taken six laxative tablets and a hot bath to try to induce a miscarriage.

She was convicted under the Offences Against the Person Act, 1861, which legal experts say has not been used in this century.

## Duke's remedy for state industries

The Duke of Edinburgh said yesterday that the nationalized industries might have to employ fewer people to keep prices down and productivity up.

He told undergraduates at the Cambridge University Industrial Society: "It is, in my view, a very real possibility that the nationalized industries will have to increase the number of people they employ. Everything suggests that if they are to improve their services, they will have to employ more people."

Earlier, he said: "When demands change, industries have to change. Some people believe this to be hard and unfair, and indeed, there are real difficulties in the way of those employed in them. But they are all at home but I had better not suggest where I think they are to be found."

Radio speech defended: The Duke defended his controversial radio speech on Anglo-Televison in which he warned the nation of the dangers of a totalitarian state in the year 2000. He said: "It was a comment on life, and life is political."

"For a country that has once been a nation of shopkeepers we now have fewer small businesses than Germany or the United States. I do not believe that this is a consequence of any decline in British ingenuity or individual enterprise."

## Parents may be called at inquiry on baby

A couple jailed at Norwich Crown Court in August for eight years each for killing their son, aged 18 months, may be called to give evidence to an independent inquiry that began at Cambridge yesterday into the death of the baby.

A preliminary list of 22 witnesses has been prepared from statements made to the panel by the authorities that have set up the inquiry.

The panel will hear evidence of the death of Simon Pearce, who died with a deformed skull, bleeding into the lungs, bleeding over the brain, a ruptured liver and 12 broken ribs. He also had burns on the soles of his feet and scalding on his chest and buttocks.

Colin Pearce, aged 23, and Christine Pearce, aged 22, were jailed for the boy's manslaughter and received two-year sentences to run concurrently with the eight years for ill-treatment.

Mr Justice Pann urged that an inquiry should be set up after hearing that the boy was for the first few months of his life, regularly visited by Suffolk social workers. After his parents moved to Soham, Cambridgeshire, the visits from health visitors stopped, although details had been passed to the Cambridgeshire authorities.

Mr Arthur Lamb, chairman of the inquiry, said a report would be published but it would not name names.

## Man in the news: Priest who studied prejudice in depth Analysis of Irish attitudes wins Ewart-Biggs award

From Christopher Walker

Few pieces of academic research can have caused such a delayed reaction as *Prejudice and Tolerance in Ireland*, a daunting 600-page analysis of Irish attitudes selected as one of the winners of the award established in memory of Christopher Ewart-Biggs, the British Ambassador to Dublin who was murdered last year.

It was published in April under the auspices of the College of Industrial Relations, a little known Jesuit foundation on the outskirts of Dublin where the author, Father Michael MacGreil, a sociology lecturer, is a priest. The operation, which followed rejections from local publishers, cost him £10,000 borrowed from a sceptical bank manager.

Farther MacGreil now shares the £1,500 Ewart-Biggs award with Dr Anthony Stewart, author of *The Narrow Ground*.

The prize is assigned to promote peace and understanding in Ireland and the strengthening of links with Britain.

Although Father MacGreil's work is probably the most comprehensive ever produced about the attitudes of ordinary Irish men and women little was heard of it outside academic circles until September, when Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien used his findings as the basis for a controversial speech at Oxford.

The central theme of his remarks to an Anglo-Irish conference was that of real majority in favour of unification exists in Ireland. To support

the argument, which infuriated Roman Catholic politicians, Dr O'Brien quoted extensively from Father MacGreil's book. No sooner had he sat down than journalists, broadcasters and academics queued to buy copies at £9.90 each.

A former Irish army officer who turned Jesuit at the age of 28, Father MacGreil first became aware of the social significance of prejudice with the stories of antisemitism which emerged from the Second World War. The interest was rekindled when he was studying in Belgium in the early 1960s and visited former concentration camps, including Dachau.

The initial feeling for minorities increased to a passionate concern when he went to study at Kent State University, Ohio, while in America. Father MacGreil witnessed the racial trouble at first hand and resolved to make a detailed study of prejudice after returning to Ireland.

The interviews for the book began early in 1972. Altogether 2,311 Dubliners were interviewed for an average of an hour each about their feelings on a wide variety of subjects, including Northern Ireland. The interviews were carefully schooled in scientific techniques and deliberately chosen to minimize the possibility of bias.

As a priest I did not ask questions myself as that might have influenced the replies, Father MacGreil said.

As Dr O'Brien was quick to

sense, for British readers the most fascinating section concerns attitudes towards the provisional IRA. One table shows that out of 70 different racial, social and religious groupings, the Provisionals rated sixty-seventh, less popular than criminals, alcoholics and degenerates.

Among Dubliners the only groupings that exceeded them in unpopularity were drug addicts, communists and drug pushers, in that order.

A mild-mannered speaker, with no wish to become embroiled in political arguments, Father MacGreil emphasized at the time of the conference that he disagreed deeply with Dr O'Brien's interpretation of his findings, particularly over the extent of Irish support for national unity.

He explained that his own reading of the mass of tables and closely annotated interviews was very different from that of the former Cabinet minister. "There is no doubt that the survey shows British people to be held in very high esteem in Dublin," he said.

But the results also indicate that Dubliners are not very enamoured with British political solutions for the Irish problem.

A man with a deep hatred of prejudice of any kind, Father MacGreil believes that an understanding of people's real attitudes can be a genuine help in countering it. For that reason he is anxious that a similar investigation of attitudes towards the Irish should now be conducted in Britain.

## Some Scots solicitors criticized for delays

Some of Scotland's solicitors are criticized in an official report published yesterday for causing undue delay to their clients by taking on more work than they can handle. They could spare clients misunderstanding and frustration over delays by keeping them better informed of the progress of cases, the report says.

The complaints came from Miss Margaret Herbison, who was appointed last year by Mr Millar, Secretary of State for Scotland, as the first "lay observer" to the Scottish Law Society's complaints procedure.

In her first annual report, Miss Herbison, who retired from the post earlier this month and was succeeded by Mr John Taylor Bain, says that some of the 84 people who got into touch with her last year complained of delays, mostly in the settlement of estates but also in conveying and divorces.

Solicitors were not always to blame. In one case the delay was caused by a government department, and in others the slow processes of law.

She declares: "Much of the frustration experienced by the client might have been avoided if his solicitor had kept him more fully informed. In the field of communication some solicitors have much to learn."

"Secondly, I have had the impression that some of the delay was caused by solicitors accepting more business than they could adequately cope with."

## In brief

## Corruption trial moved to London

A corruption trial involving Brynna, a Birmingham-based building company, will not be held in the city.

Mr Justice May, at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday, granted an application to move the trial to London on the ground of possible prejudice caused by previous publicity.

## Sentence cut

A nine-year jail sentence on Alan de Vere Taylor, aged 55, a freelance journalist, of Fernwood Nursery Gardens, Stanford, was cut to four years by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

## Zoo may be saved

A rescue plan for Dudley Zoo, West Midlands, which is due to close in four weeks, has been worked out between its owner, Scotia Investments, Dudley council, and Bristol Zoo. Details are not being disclosed until the proposals have been considered by the council and Bristol Zoological Society later this month.

## Air terminal opposed

Richmond upon Thames Borough Council is being recommended, at its meeting on November 22, to oppose the building of a fourth terminal at Heathrow on the grounds of more aircraft noise and heavier road traffic.

## Evidence sought

Mrs Reaé Short, MP for Wolverhampton, North-east, and chairman of the Commons social services and employment subcommittee, is calling for written evidence to be submitted to the subcommittee's inquiry into government and local authority training services.

## Road improvements

Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, yesterday announced his acceptance of the interim recommendations of a study group set up by the department and the Greater London Council to review plans for improving the A406 North Circular Road between Chiswick and Woodford.

## Tunnelling record

Miners at Holdich colliery, Staffordshire, have claimed a European tunnelling record after carving out a 7-ft tunnel, 237 yards long, in a week.

## Two historians

Joe Hume and V. H. Galbraith in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today. Maurice Bruce discusses the achievements of Lord Beveridge, and David Walker visits Edinburgh in the second series of profiles of the ancient Scottish universities.

## Treasury figures show 'our grim decline'

By Our Political Staff

The Prime Minister has said "yes, but..." to the question whether we were "as well off" in 1974. But on Wednesday the Treasury confirmed that we are not, at least by the real take-home pay figures which we can all understand.

The Prime Minister well knows that. He has been arguing all year that we cannot "catch up" the lost ground, but he imprudently ventured an honest, unimpeachable technical answer in the House of Commons last week, purporting to show that on the same "real" tax and national insurance as in 1974 we now had higher average earnings.

He doggedly stuck to his answer "in every particular" when he was challenged by Mrs Thatcher, the Conservative leader, on Monday.

The grim decline is shown in the following Treasury table given on Wednesday in answer to Mr Callaghan's original question, Mr Norman Tebbit, Conservative MP for Waltham Forest, Chingford.

Married man with two children under 11 (August 1977 prices):

	Real take-home pay (12 a week)	Real net income (16 a week)
Dec '73	66.10	67.79
Dec '74	68.91	70.31
Dec '75	63.78	65.63
Dec '76	61.83	63.45
Aug '77	60.16	62.66

The Treasury said that the figures in column one had been calculated on the same basis as those given in a reply to Mr Tebbit on May 4, 1977, that the figures for August took account of the 1977-78 tax and social security rates. The figures of average earnings for August, this year, in addition, the committee had been informed slightly by last year, had been reduced slightly by the Treasury's new earnings survey for April, this year.

The figures in column two included the family allowance/child benefit as appropriate.

## Today's Chase.



Alan H. Ulrick-Vice President, Manager, Foreign Exchange Trading, London

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## WEST EUROPE

## Deputies show unease at signs of shift in French defence policy

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Nov. 10

The National Assembly, in a show of all humour and distrust towards the Government's defence policy, refused early today to approve part of the equipment budget—that share of the total budget which provides for expenditure on military hardware, as opposed to operating costs. The vote on this section was postponed until the end of the budget debate on November 18.

There seems to be no doubt that the equipment budget will eventually be approved. But the deputies of the government majority, with the Gaullists in the van, wanted to give the Government a solemn warning over what they regard as a change in the basic priorities of French defence, to the detriment of the nuclear deterrent and in favour of conventional armaments.

Some Gaullists—along with the Communists—went further and suspect that this shift in priorities implies a gradual drift away from the sacrosanct principle of an independent defence policy and towards greater cooperation with Nato.

The left-wing opposition stood aside from this parliamentary struggle which pitted members of the government coalition against the minister, and merely counted the blows.

M. Jean-Pierre Chevènement, leader of the left wing of the Socialist Party, insisted in a harrowing speech that the Government majority was now refusing to face the direct consequences of the six-year military programme it had voted a year ago. This placed the emphasis on the build-up of the conventional forces which had been sorely neglected to the benefit of the nuclear deterrent in the first two military programmes.

The fourth military programme voted last year involved a shift in emphasis. It was based on the contention that the strategy of deterrence constituted a stable, not French security could not be guaranteed in isolation, but only in cooperation with allies, though France was not part of the integrated Nato command.

Criticism by deputies of the Government majority of the equipment budget centred on two points: that it provided "ridiculously low" appropriations

for the construction of a sixth nuclear submarine, although Parliament had insisted last year during the discussion of the new six-year programme that it must be built and go into service in 1985; and that the minister refused to give the Assembly a precise breakdown of the expenditure on military hardware between now and 1982.

M. Yvon Bourges, the Defence Minister, denied that there had been any change in priorities. The capacity of destruction of the strategic nuclear forces would be quadrupled by 1982.

"The budget of 1978 consolidates on all planes the autonomy of national defence by respecting the priority given to nuclear forces," to which 36 per cent of the equipment budget was devoted. But in fact, this priority will be placed on missiles rather than on their launchers.

The minister emphasised that in 1978 the new medium range air-to-ground missile, which would equip the Mirage 2000 of the tactical nuclear force, would begin to be available. The strategic missiles of the Plateau d'Albion would be equipped with thermonuclear warheads, while the development of multiple warheads would be under way. These are due to be in service by 1980.

The minister argued that it would be useless to begin now the construction of a sixth nuclear submarine which would be obsolete by the turn of the century. He maintained that the budget for the Navy would have increased by more than 60 per cent since 1975.

The defence budget has indeed increased to 18.3 per cent of the total budget of the state, and defence is now the biggest single item of government expenditure, in spite of increasing economic difficulties.

The government's aim is to achieve a 20 per cent share for defence by the end of the six-year military programme. But the problem is not so much the size of the cake as how to divide it up between the different priorities.

M. Messmer, the former Prime Minister, writing in *l'Informateur* yesterday, said that the Government should reconsider the wisdom of keeping under arms half a million men, and hanging on to conscription. But this it refuses to do.

## Chain-store owner kidnapped in Vienna

From Sue Masterman  
Vienna, Nov. 10

An Austrian chain-store owner, Herr Walter Michael Palmers, aged 74, is being held to ransom for 50m schillings (£1.3m) by kidnapers who appear to have seized him from his private car while he was driving home in Vienna last night. Herr Palmers and his family own more than 100 clothing stores.

The kidnapers are believed to have left a note in the car, demanding the ransom. The Austrian police refused to give any information "in the interests of the investigation" but said they suspected a criminal gang and not political terrorists.

The Palmers kidnap, almost a carbon copy of the Caransa kidnap affair in Holland two weeks ago, when a property owner was held for three weeks before being ransomed for more than £2m, appears to be the work of criminals who knew their victim's movements. Herr Palmers, whose large family are almost all employed in the management of the chain of stores, has a heart complaint. He is known to be a wealthy man but is not counted among Austria's ostentatiously rich.

## Sweden bans aerosols

Stockholm, Nov. 10.—Sweden will ban the use of aerosol cans from January 1, 1979, in a move aimed at protecting the ozone layer of the earth's atmosphere. —Agence France Presse.



Mr Ray Jenkins, President of the EEC Commission, exchanging ideas in Bonn yesterday with Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor.

## Spanish left denies 'secret deals'

From Our Correspondent  
Madrid, Nov. 10

The Spanish Workers Socialist Party today denied that there were any "secret clauses" in the political and economic pacts between the Government and the opposition parties over postponing municipal elections.

There have been reports that the political parties who signed the pacts have agreed to put off municipal elections until next year. While these reports have been denied, the different political parties are in disagreement over the issue.

After the June general election all parties spoke of the need to the municipal elections

to be held before the end of 1977, but this is now considered most unlikely.

Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Socialist Secretary-General, saw Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister last night for two hours and told him that as far as his party was concerned the municipal elections must be held before next spring.

One of the problems is that there is no democratic legislation on municipal elections yet, as General Franco's laws are still in existence. Another problem is that for various reasons some of the parties are less keen than others to hold the elections quickly, in particular,

the ruling Democratic Centre Union which, according to secret opinion polls, is losing votes. The Communists on the other hand are keen for they consider that their star is rising. Municipal elections are regarded here as very important, but for the moment the parties seem far more concerned with the trade union elections, which could be held in December.

While the parties themselves seem quite happy to put them off until next year there are increasing signs of restlessness over the matter in the Basque country where many mayors resigned last year

## Herr Schmidt to visit Poland later this month

Bonn, Nov. 10.—Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, will pay an official visit to Poland from November 21 to 25, it was officially announced here today.

The visit was originally due to take place in September but was postponed because of the kidnapping of Dr Hanns-Martin Schleyer.

Government officials here said Herr Schmidt would have talks on international and bilateral questions with Mr Edward Gierek, the Polish party leader.

## Prisoners flee from fortress in Sicily

Trapani, Sicily, Nov. 10.—Hundreds of police today hunted one of Italy's most feared urban guerrilla leaders who escaped from jail yesterday with two other men.

Antonio De Laurentis, aged 27, a leader of the Naples-based "Armed Proletarian Nuclei" group, and the two others broke out of a top security jail, an eleventh-century fortress built by Norman invaders on the island of Favignana, off this resort in western Sicily.

The two other men were named as Luciano Drogio and Oscar Soca, who were both awaiting trial on kidnapping and robbery charges. The police believe they may have made their break during early morning exercises. Their escape was not noticed until just before midnight.

The police later arrested one of the guards at Favignana jail in connexion with the escape. Earlier they found a rope made of bedsheet hanging from the top of a prison wall.

Signor De Laurentis was serving a sentence for kidnapping, organising a subversive gang and other politically-motivated crimes. He was arrested in Rome in 1975 during a gun battle with police in which Anna Maria Mantini, his girl friend was killed.

Favignana jail is one of five prisons recently turned into maximum security jails. House 600 of Italy's most dangerous prisoners.

## French envoy to resume Algiers talks on hostages

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Nov. 10

A French negotiator is to return to Algeria to attempt to open a dialogue with the leaders of the Polisario guerrillas about the French hostages they are holding.

The negotiator, M. Claude Chavet, returned to Paris on Monday after some 17 hours of talks in Algiers with leaders of the Polisario, who are fighting for independence for the Western Sahara. He reported that his talks had reached a deadlock since recognition of the Polisario cause was demanded as a precondition. France considers the problem of the Western Sahara must be resolved by international negotiation so M. Chavet could offer no such recognition.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said today that M. Chavet would return as an act of faith to continue the discussions with the Polisario since the guerrillas claimed that they were prepared to do so without any French statement being made.

The spokesman said in a statement: "In a communiqué published on Wednesday in Algiers the Polisario declared that it did not impose any preconditions for its meetings with M. Chavet."

That information is incorrect, Chavet, as the Foreign Minister told the National Assembly

on November 8, received at the end of the description of its political thesis, conditions expressly formulated and presented as so many preconditions to the opening of discussions about our compatriots."

A spokesman for the Polisario in Brussels said in a statement last night that the discussions going on "can only have a happy outcome thanks to the good will shown by the Polisario which seeks to maintain solidarity and fraternity with the French people."

In Algeria a Polisario spokesman said the guerrillas had agreed to "suspend" the talks with M. Chavet because he wanted to report back to his government. The talks could be resumed in two or three days. They said they were willing to see M. Chavet at any time "which clearly shows the will of the Saharan people to preserve the ties of fraternity with the French people."

Cairo, Nov. 10.—Mr Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian Vice-President flew to Morocco today to start an attempt to mediate between Morocco and Algeria in their dispute over the Sahara.

The dispute has grown in the last few days, with Morocco threatening "hot pursuit" into Algerian territory of Polisario guerrillas. Algeria has said it will fight any Moroccan intrusion into its territory. —UPL.

## £1.8m project to restore ruins of Pompeii

Naples, Nov. 10.—Archaeologists and art experts are soon to begin work on the restoration of the ruins of Pompeii, the cost, estimated at more than £1.8m, is to be covered by the Italian Government.

Officials of the Antiquities department said that the restoration work would take more than five years and employ more than 200 specialists.

The project would include digging new streets, placing archaeological finds, compiling a catalogue with photographic documentation of the site and restoration of the ruins and frescoes damaged by the weather. —UPL.

## Eight held in Germany on terror charges

From Our Own Correspondent  
Bonn, Nov. 10

Four men and four women allegedly linked with the Baader-Meinhof terrorist group were arrested in Kaiserslautern and charged with a bomb attack on a court building in Zweibrücken in Rhineland-Palatinate, on October 31. They were also charged with belonging to a terrorist organization.

Letters to a newspaper and a news agency declared that the attack had been an expression of rage at the "murder" of the three Baader-Meinhof terrorists in jail on October 18. Provisional results of the post mortem and official investigation have ruled out foul play.

## Rubens reproductions on show in Paris Metro

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Nov. 10

The Paris Metro is becoming increasingly civilized. After seeing its bookstalls and riders in March to a three-day festival of classical, contemporary and pop music to entertain commuters on their way, it is now launching into art.

It has arranged an exhibition of 38 reproductions of Rubens paintings to mark the fourth anniversary of his birth. The pictures are by the photographer Hans Claus, who made them by projecting the originals on to a screen. The display has been set up

in the vast hall of the Auber express regional Metro station, near the Opéra. Each week a visitor to the exhibition, drawn by lot, will be given a reproduction.

For many years, the Louvre station has been a model of what can be done to brighten up the Metro, with its artistic lighting and well displayed reproductions of statuary, which give a foretaste of the museum above.

The transport board, besides the gradual renovation of underground stations, is planning to extend this idea to other historic Metro stations in the capital.

## American Express visits four country house hotels in Wales and the West Country



Some of the most beautiful scenery in Britain is to be found in the west, from the warm tranquillity of the Cotswolds to the wild, rugged coastline of Wales.

Whether businessman or tourist, the traveller to these parts will appreciate the magnificent surroundings and superb facilities offered by these four country house hotels.

All attractive, stylish old buildings, with excellent service and comfort to match, these hotels have the added attraction of welcoming the American Express Card.

If you're not yet enjoying the many benefits of carrying the Card—like signing for bills at hotels, restaurants, shops and travel offices the world over—pick up an application form. They're at all these hotels, Lloyds Banks, and American Express Travel Offices; or call direct on 0273-693555.

## Deganwy Castle Hotel, Conway

Well known to locals and visitors alike for the excellence of its table, with local dishes a speciality, the Deganwy Castle Hotel provides the pleasures of high-class cuisine in lovely surroundings. Visitors not only enjoy the good food of the Deganwy Castle but its friendly bars, comfortable lounges and thirty modern bedrooms, most with superb views over the Conway estuary and Snowdonia.

For golf enthusiasts there are three excellent courses nearby, and the fishing is renowned throughout North Wales. Being within easy reach of Snowdon and the popular resorts of Llandudno and Colwyn Bay, the Deganwy Castle is an ideal touring centre. Reservations 0492-83358.

## The Tara, Gloucester

Built in 1870, the Tara is a charming old country house hotel which commands a splendid view of Gloucester, three miles away, and of the Severn valley. This lovely panorama and the Tara's numerous function rooms mean it is well suited for both conferences and private occasions. Excellent French and English cuisine is assured by the resident chefs.

The 20 well appointed bedrooms, the heated swimming pool, and the exquisite dining room and patios all help to make the Tara a superb holiday base, situated as it is in the heart of the Cotswolds. Upton St. Leonards, Gloucester 67412.

## Close Hotel, Tetbury

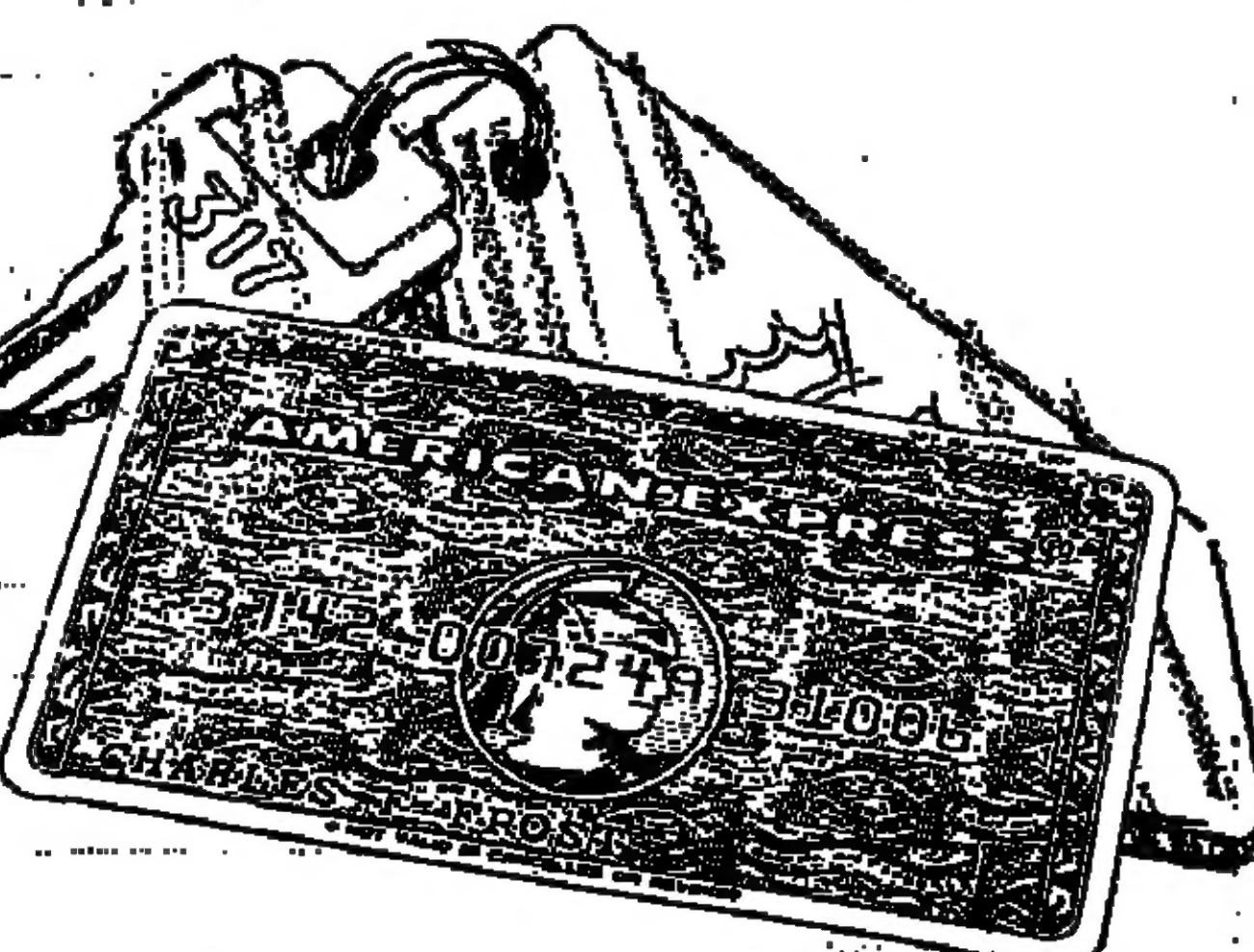
This country house, situated in stone-walled secluded gardens, was built in 1596 by a Cotswold wool merchant, and added to in Georgian times. The spacious central lounge with its domed ceiling is richly upholstered in red velvet. The bedrooms are large and elegant, and much practical thought has gone into them. They are all equipped with private bathroom and television. The staff are friendly and efficient, the atmosphere calm and relaxing.

The hotel restaurant is a gracious, elegant room and the cooking fulfils the expectations aroused by the surroundings. Specialities include a 3-fish pate and veal cutlets with morilles. 8 Long Street, Tetbury, Gloucestershire. Tetbury 52272.

## Warpool Court Hotel, St. Davids

On the most western tip of unspoiled Pembrokeshire stands the Warpool Court Hotel, a magnificent grey stone country house which has become an exclusive first-class hotel renowned for its service and hospitality. Not only are the food and wine exquisitely prepared and expertly chosen (with local seafood a speciality) but an extensive range of activities are available to patrons.

In summer these include sailing, swimming in the hotel's covered pool, sea angling and exploratory coastal trips in the hotel boat. While in winter the emphasis is on the luxury of good food and log fires at special Country House and Chamber Music weekends—all in the magnificent scenery of the Pembrokeshire coastline. St. Davids 300.



The American Express Card. Don't leave home without it



OVERSEAS

President Carter set to return St Stephen's crown despite outcry by Hungarian-Americans

From David Cross  
Washington, Nov 10

The United States is expected to abide by its plan to return the Holy Crown of St Stephen to Hungary, in spite of strong objections from representatives of the Hungarian-American community.

This was the message relayed by President Carter to a delegation which had come to discuss the intended return of the 977-year-old symbol of Hungarian sovereignty with Mr Mondale, the Vice-President, at the White House yesterday.

Mr Carter is reported to have told his visitors that in spite of criticisms of the Hungarian Government headed by Mr Janos Kadar, the Communist Party leader, the Hungarian people needed a symbol of their heritage. The crown would become "a distant memory" if it remained in the United States, he said.

He insisted that the return of the crown would not mean American endorsement of the communist system in Hungary. He also indicated that he would like the approval of Hungarian church leaders before the crown was handed back.

The Administration had originally intended to give the crown to the Hungarians during President Carter's planned trip

to four continents at the end of this month. But the postponement of the tour has resulted in uncertainty about the timing of the hand-over.

The most likely course of action now is that Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, should deliver it himself when he travels to Europe next month for the regular winter meeting of Nato foreign ministers.

The return of the crown is expected to take place only under certain conditions. The most important of these would be an insistence by the United States that the crown should be put on public display.

The campaign to prevent the return of the crown has been led by Ms Mary Rose Oskar, a Democratic member of the House of Representatives from Ohio, who represents a large Hungarian-American constituency in Cleveland.

To cheer from spectators, she told a House subcommittee yesterday that the present Hungarian regime was "not a Government worthy of receiving this sacred crown". Moreover, its return would repudiate Mr Carter's own human rights policy towards East Europe.

The crown, which was sent as a coronation gift to Stephen, Hungary's first king, by Pope Sylvester II in the year 1000,

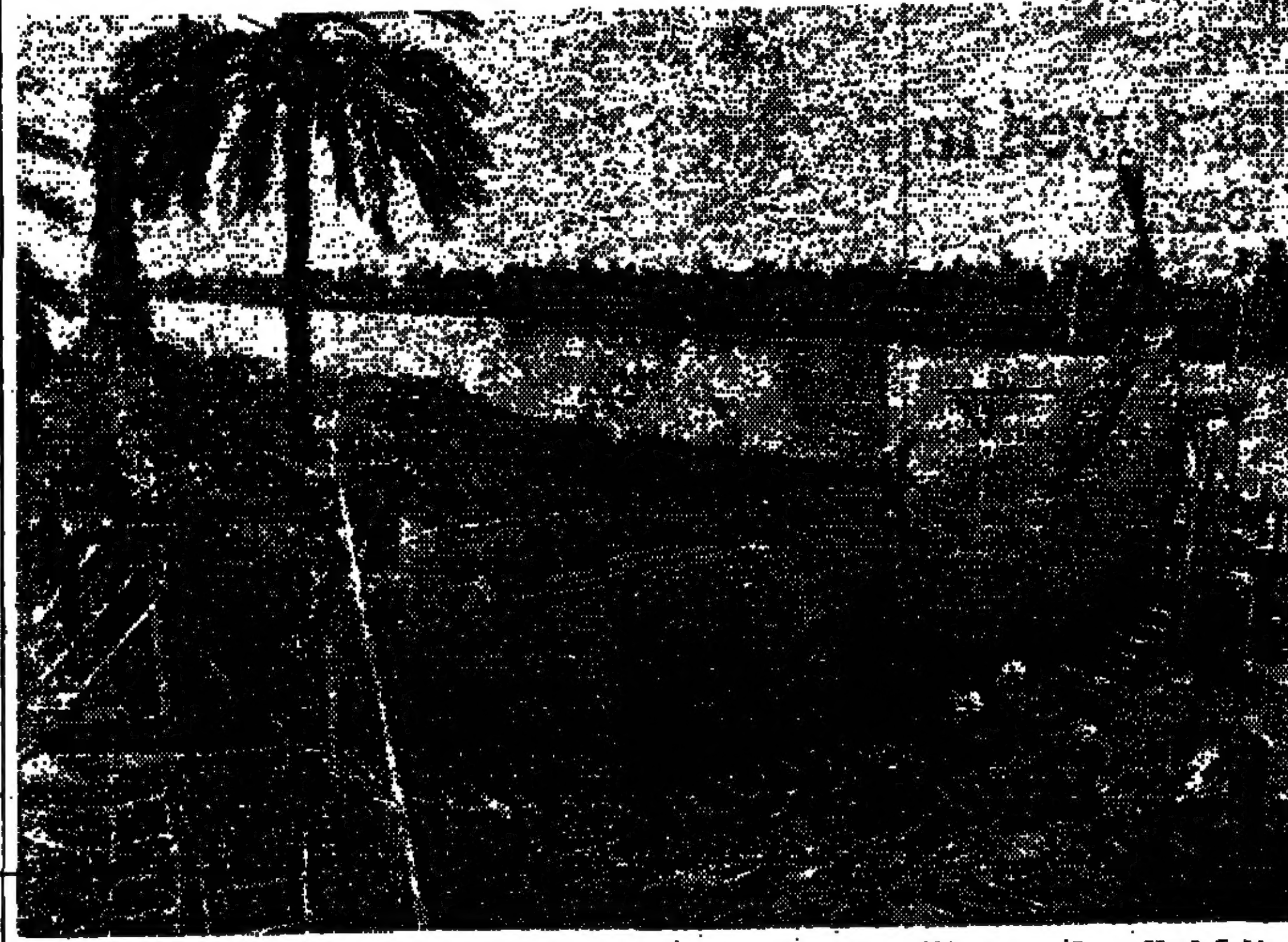
was turned over to the American military authorities in Germany at the end of the Second World War.

The crown's Hungarian military guard, which also gave the Americans other royal jewels, including a gold sceptre and orb, for safekeeping, was afraid that it would otherwise fall into the hands of the advancing Russian troops.

Since then it has reportedly been lying in Fort Knox, Stockton, Nov 10.—Mr Frigyes Fuchs, the Hungarian Foreign Minister, today welcomed President Carter's decision to return St Stephen's crown and described opposition to the decision as the reaction of extremist immigrants in the United States.

"We believe the greater majority of immigrants favour the American Government's decision to return the crown of St Stephen," the Foreign Minister said at a news conference during a four-day official visit to Sweden.

He believed that objections among some Hungarian-Americans to Mr Carter's gesture were "utterances on behalf of the most extreme immigrants in the United States. In my opinion they can hardly hinder the further development of relations between our two countries."



Crew members and technicians at Qurna, Iraq, putting the finishing touches to Thor Heyerdahl's reed boat Tigris in which the Norwegian explorer hopes to demonstrate that prehistoric trading links between the Middle East and India were possible.

Falklands talks next month

By Michael Frenchman

The next round of the Falkland Islands talks between Britain and Argentina is to be held in New York in mid-December.

According to informed sources in London, an announcement on the talks which are to be held at ministerial level is expected soon.

Mr Edward Rowlands, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who visited the islands last February, will be leading the British delegation.

The delegation is expected to include a representative of the islanders, who will be nominated by the Governor in consultation with the recently elected Legislative Council.

The talks are the second to be held this year after preliminary discussions in Buenos Aires on the future of the disputed British colony of 1,900 inhabitants.

Last-century wines found in an American cellar

From Michael Leapman  
New York, Nov 10

A cellar crammed with some 500 bottles of valuable vintage wine of the late nineteenth century has been discovered at Albany, the state capital of New York. Test tastings show that the wine, much of it from famous Chateaux of Bordeaux, is in excellent condition and could be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The wine was found in a 180-year-old mansion owned by the local historical association. It will be auctioned next May in Atlanta, Georgia, by Heublein's, a wine and spirit company.

Mr Alex McNally, the firm's international wine manager, made the discovery when he was asked by the building's owners to inspect the cellar. It was known to contain wine, but an official of the association, who died a year ago, had barred inspection of it during his lifetime.

Among wines found in the 20 cases, containing between 12 and 26 bottles each, were

Chateau Lafite, 1868 and 1870; Chateau Mouton Rothschild, Chateau Haut Brion and Chateau Margaux, all of 1875; and a Monopole Chateau of 1880. In 1976 Heublein's auctioned a bottle of the 1868 Lafite for \$2,500 (£1,200).

"For a wine lover it was like entering Tutankhamun's tomb," Mr McNally said.

Mr Joseph McGarry, a Heublein vice-president, said today that the few bottles opened so far were in perfect condition. Proceeds of the sale would go towards restoring the old mansion as a public museum.

Today Mr McNally tasted a bottle of 1870 Lafite, a highly regarded vintage, which had seeped through its cork. In spite of this, he said, the quality of the wine came through clearly.

At a press conference, he opened an intact bottle of 1875 Chateau Margaux and was ecstatic about it.

He added that it was the first such find in the United States.

10 Namibian guerrillas die in clash

Windhoek, Nov 10.—South African troops killed 10 black guerrillas in the border area between Namibia and Angola yesterday, defence headquarters here announced today.

The statement said a border patrol came under heavy rocket and machinegun fire. In the counter-attack, 10 guerrillas were shot dead.

The guerrillas were part of a force of between 40 and 50 belonging to the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO). There were no South African losses.

The statement said South African troops had twice drawn "unprovoked fire from terrorist mortars in Angola" during the past two days. The troops returned the fire on both occasions and suffered no casualties, it added.

Pretoria, Nov 10.—Police arrested more than 350 blacks—100 of them children—in a series of raids today in Atteridgeville township near here. Police said the children were in need of care.

In Cradock, a south-eastern farming town, police opened fire with shotguns on black rioters stoning patrol cars. No injuries were reported, police said.—Reuter and AP.

Lord Carver denies Africa 'brush off'

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Field Marshal Lord Carver, the British Commissioner-designate for Rhodesia, said on his return to London yesterday that he had not been given "the brush off" in his recent talks in Africa. The important thing was that African leaders had told him exactly what they thought about the British proposals.

Lord Carver, 67, was at the Foreign Office yesterday to review with Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, the next stage in seeking a Rhodesia settlement. Dr Owen will be making a policy statement in the Commons today.

The two areas of disagreement about a settlement, in Lord Carver's view, are the role of political parties in a transition period to majority rule, and the task of constituting a national army, which would be loyal to the newly elected government in Rhodesia.

Frederick Clery writes from Salisbury: Rhodesia entered its thirteenth year of self-proclaimed independence today.

The Government has no nearer official recognition than it was when Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, made his dramatic broadcast on November 11, 1965.

Since introducing into the political lexicon the phrase "unilateral declaration of independence" (UDI), Mr Smith has striven to gain international approval and support for his action, but to no avail. He has negotiated with the administrators of three British Prime Ministers, one American Secretary of State, countless British Government officials and politicians and has tried to reach a measure of agreement with various African nationalist factions. Now he appears to have got no further with Lord Carver, and like everyone else, he must be wondering if there is a solution to what has become one of the most protracted postwar political problems.

While Lord Carver and Mr John Graham, Deputy Under-Secretary at the Foreign

Office, report to Dr Owen, Mr Smith and his Cabinet will review the settlement issue after the holiday weekend.

He has not rejected the Anglo-American proposals, but unless serious changes are made he is unlikely to hold out much hope of their success. He may turn again to searching for agreement with African nationalists inside Rhodesia, but the statement from New York on Wednesday by the Rev Ndlovu Sithole, the most able of these leaders, that he is the head of the Chinese-backed Zanu guerrillas fighting in the country has not helped.

Last night, on the stroke of midnight, Mr Smith rang Salisbury's Liberty Bell. In his annual message he described the past 12 years as "12 incredible years". Against all predictions the country had prospered. However, Rhodesia had faced a concerted effort by the United Nations to cripple it and in recent years it had to cope with a vicious terrorist campaign aimed largely against defenceless black tribesmen.

It was hardly a message to cheer Rhodesians and even the brilliant cloudless and hot summer weather cannot dispel the mental gloom which pervades the country.

Plan attacked: Mr Pieter van der Byl, the Rhodesian Foreign Minister, said yesterday that the Anglo-American peace plan in its present form was "totally outrageous".

He also accused the Soviet Union and the United States of trying to impose a new world order of "terrifying prospects" in which Rhodesia was a test case.

Of the British-American initiative, he said: "My personal belief—it is not the official view of the Government—necessarily, but I'd be surprised if anything disagreed very much—is that it cannot succeed because it is based on a total wrong premise."

He added: "It is based on the imposition of unconditional surrender on an undefeated people who are not enemies."—Reuter.

Britain ignores plane sales opportunity

From Arthur Reed  
Madrid, Nov 10

Leaders of the world airline industry, with £38,000m to spend on new aircraft during the next 10 years, are being courted by aircraft manufacturers at the annual meeting of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) here.

But all the sales efforts are coming from the American aircraft and engine manufacturers. There is no evidence on the fringe of the IATA conference of any representatives from Britain's aircraft industry, nor of its European partners.

The American "big three" manufacturers, Boeing, Lockheed and McDonnell Douglas, plus the engine companies, are here in force. Their senior executives can be seen each evening in deep discussion with the airline chairman and their chief officers who will have the final say on which new aircraft types will be bought.

Airline chairmen to whom I have spoken here this week are at a loss to understand why British Aerospace, the nationalized British aircraft industry, and Rolls-Royce are not taking part in this process.

Britain is, after all, hoping to develop and market with European partners a new 150-seat aircraft based on either a British design, the BAC X1, or a French design, the A200.

Boeing and Douglas have competing projects, the merits of which they are losing no opportunity to sell to their influential and captive audience. Boeing has come here with three new aircraft on offer, all in the 200-seat class. The smallest has two engines and will be able to fly across the United States with one stop, the second has two engines and can cross the United States nonstop, while the third has three engines and a nonstop range of 4,500 miles.

Senior executives of Boeing to whom I have talked here indicate that a plan under which British Aerospace was to have built under licence a European version of the highly successful Boeing 737 aircraft has fallen through for lack of commercial agreement.

Boeing was to have supplied the fuselage while British Aerospace made the wings, and the project would have provided many much needed jobs for the British civil aircraft factories which are now rapidly running out of work.

Both Boeing and Douglas are, however, willing to discuss cooperating on building projects with Britain on their new generation of airliners. But the leaders of British Aerospace still have to come to the vital decision of whether they will collaborate with the Americans or with the Europeans.

British Aerospace knows that the biggest world markets will remain open to the products of the American industry, but it also knows it risks deeply offending the French and the West Germans if it turns its back on them.

One encouraging piece of news to emerge for Britain and Europe from behind the scenes at the IATA meeting is that the American airline, United, is about to begin a serious evaluation of the European A300 Airbus, a joint project by France, West Germany, Britain, Holland and Spain.

Leading article, page 15

Military ruler decides on elections in Bolivia

By David Watts

President Hugo Banzer of Bolivia has announced that elections are to be held next July, two years earlier than originally planned.

In a radio and television announcement, the army general said that the three-year decree banning political activities would be lifted as would those on union and student activities. The general elections will be the first for 12 years; there have been no local elections for 25 years.

General Banzer did not indicate whether he would be a candidate. He said the lifting of restrictions on political activity should not be regarded as a reprieve to the past.

The announcement coincides with the presence in London of Bolivia's last democratic president, Dr Luis Adolfo Siles, who was deposed after a brief period in rule in 1969. He has recently been active in the human rights movement in Bolivia.

The election announcement left Dr Siles singularly unimpressed. He said there had been systematic elimination of the opposition parties and the peasants had been smashed. The calling of elections at short notice could serve only to give President Banzer an opportunity to legitimize the regime that came to power through a military coup in August 1971.

Dr Siles said the election would allow President Banzer to extend his rule to 1982.

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Supreme Court blessing for General Zia's coup

From Hasan Akhtar  
Islamabad, Nov 10

The Pakistan Supreme Court today extended legal sanction to General Zia's seizure of power last July when he dismissed Mr Bhutto's Prime Minister, and imposed martial law. The court also dismissed a petition from Mr Bhutto's wife Nurat challenging the detention of her husband and 10 other Government and People's Party officials.

In a 108-page judgment Chief Justice Anwar ul-Haq and eight other judges returned a unanimous verdict that the imposition of martial law was an "extra-constitutional step necessitated by the complete breakdown and erosion of the constitutional and moral authority of the Bhutto Government as a result of the unprecedented protest movement launched by the Pakistan National Alliance against alleged massive rigging of elections in March this year."

The judges found that the imposition of martial law by the Chief of the Army Staff

was validated by the "doctrine of necessity".

The court observed that the constitution adopted by the National Assembly in 1973 was still "superseding" and that the President of Pakistan and the courts continued to function as before under it. The present period of martial law was described as "a period of constitutional suspension in favour of the chief executive administrator of overthrowing his constitutional government with foreign backing and described General Zia as being politically motivated in favour of the right-wing theocratic political organization Jamaat-e-Islami."

The Supreme Court refused to free Mr Bhutto and his colleagues but advised them to approach the appropriate high courts under article 199 of the constitution relating to the fundamental rights of citizens.

Canadian Mounties under fire for opening mail

From Our Correspondent  
Ottawa, Nov 10

Illegal operations of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have involved tampering with the postal service, it was disclosed here yesterday. Mr Francis Fox, the Solicitor General, told the Commons that "in some instances" the police intercepted and opened first-class mail sent by Canadians through the post.

Mr Fox, who has responsibility for the federal police force, confirmed a news report that mail was opened under an operation code-named "Cathedral". Questioned about tampering with mail, Mr Fox told an opposition MP: "It clearly happened in some instances

reporters that no mail has been opened by the "Mounties" since June last year. He refused to be precise as to the number of letters that had been opened.

Mr Fox said he had referred the matter to Mr Ronald Basford, the federal Minister of Justice and Attorney-General. Interfering with the mail is a criminal offence under Canada's Post Office Act.

In recent weeks a number of other illegal activities of the Mounted Police security service have been brought to light, including the burning down of a barn, the theft of ammunition and a "break-in to obtain the membership list of the separatist Front Quebecois. The

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## OVERSEAS

# Israeli leader takes up Sadat offer to visit Jerusalem for peace negotiations in Knesset

From Our Correspondent

Tel Aviv, Nov 10

Mr. Begin, the Prime Minister of Israel, today took up promptly President Sadat's offer to come to the Knesset in Jerusalem to negotiate a Middle East settlement. "By all means," Mr. Begin said, "I will accept."

He later asked visiting United States Congressmen going to Cairo to assure President Sadat that he would be received in Jerusalem with all honours.

Mr. Begin said he would go to Ben-Gurion airport to meet the Egyptian leader.

The exchanges were characterized here as "niceties" that were unlikely to lead to a meeting, but some Israelis said its psychological significance should not be underestimated.

It has been a ritual for Israeli Prime Ministers, from Mr. Ben-Gurion to Mr. Begin, to proclaim on assuming office a readiness to go to Cairo to negotiate peace.

Mr. Begin recalled today that President Sadat not long ago expressed readiness to lose two million Egyptians fighting Israel.

Accordingly, Israeli said it

was heartening to hear that the Egyptian Parliament applauded "thunderously" when the President said he would go to the Knesset, rather than have a single one of his soldiers injured.

Some observers here said Mr. Sadat may have been in high spirits after the Americans presented Egypt with a new working paper containing proposals for Geneva peace talks that met Arab objections to the paper drafted by Mr. Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, with President Carter and Mr. Vance, the American Secretary of State, in Washington.

Mr. Begin said he doubted that this report was true as he had a long talk today with Mr. Samuel Lewis, the American Ambassador, and no mention had been made of a new paper. It was unlikely that Mr. Lewis would have withheld such important information.

The meeting with Mr. Lewis focused on the situation in Lebanon and was also attended by Mr. Dayan and Mr. Ezer Weizman, the Defence Minister.

Mr. Begin, who was interviewed after the meeting, said it had been agreed to strive to restore the ceasefire and work

for a permanent settlement

that would bring peace to the Christians and Muslims in southern Lebanon, as well as to the Jewish population in northern Israel.

Mr. Lewis said the eventual aim was the withdrawal of Palestinians from the border region so that the Lebanese Army could occupy the territory. This would accord with Israel's view.

Mr. Begin said that if civilians were hurt in yesterday's air strikes on guerrilla bases, he regretted it deeply, but he was not going to make apologies for the Air Force action.

He said the defence of our people, he said.

Nahariya, a small seaside town, had been shelled repeatedly by Katyusha rockets supplied by the Soviet Union to the Palestine Liberation Organization. There was quiet on the other side, there would be no further Israeli actions.

The Prime Minister said President Sadat's demand for the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and for the evacuation of the Gaza Strip was rejected by Israel "by total consensus". This was not necessarily an obstacle to peace talks, however.

From Georges Harbousse

Assise, Nov 10

There is not a house standing today in this small South Lebanese village about nine miles south-east of Tyre, bombed yesterday by Israeli aircraft.

A few walls, a staircase, a doorway left intact, and everywhere destitute survivors of the war, stumbling among the ruins, looking for their loved ones and their scraps of belongings among the wreckage of death.

I visited this village and found the people, a mix of hope, trapped in the midst of a war between right-wing Christians, supported by the Israelis, on one side and Palestinian guerrillas on the other.

Even so they express their disbelief that any "enemy" would have razed in cold blood a completely civilian village to which the military did not have access.

But their complaints, too, are against the Lebanese authorities who have left them abandoned. For two days they have been ignored by outside aid, without food, without medicines, and without the equipment to cope with the ruin of their homes.

"We cannot even bury our dead because to do it we would need a bulldozer," one villager stated bitterly.

Sixty-five bodies have been found but there are thought to be many more people buried—some possibly still alive.

A man, with tear marks on his face, was desperately trying to shift a block of concrete. "I am certain they are still alive. I am certain," he said as he sought to find his wife and two sons buried in what was once their home.

Not far away an old woman on her knees in the debris, scrubbed with her bare hands to find just a few of the belongings which once constituted her domestic life. A boy of about 12, as near by crying quietly, the bodies of his mother and father had been dragged from the ruins of his home. (Agence France-Press).

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Palestinian voice raised in dialogue with EEC

## Civilization links to be surveyed

From Edward Mortimer

Cairo, Nov 10

Because the governments of the European Community do not recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Community held up for two years the opening of the "Euro-Arab dialogue" rather than agree to deal with a PLO delegation as the Arabs insisted.

The compromise eventually found in 1976 was to have a single Arab and a single European delegation, without differentiating national labels. It is the same solution which it seems is now accepted by all parties for the revival of the Geneva conference on Middle East peace.

In fact, there is a PLO delegation within the Arab League of the dialogue. Dr Ahmad Sidqi Dajani, last March he was elected to the PLO executive, and he is also the Arab co-chairman of the dialogue's cultural commission. He is to be found at the Arab League's Research and Studies Institute in Garden City, Cairo.

The Euro-Arab dialogue is usually thought of as essentially economic and political, with the Europeans looking for ways of taking part in the phenomenal economic growth of the Arab world while the Arabs look to Europe for political support in their negotia-

tions with the United States and Israel.

The third wing of the triptych, in which culture is rather curiously lumped together with labour affairs, has attracted little or no publicity, and perhaps for that reason has been moving relatively smoothly ahead.

I discovered it by accident last week when I met Dr Derek Hopwood, of St Antony's College, Oxford, an old acquaintance. I was surprised to learn that Dr Hopwood, who is not an official but an academic, was officially representing the British Government in one of the dialogue's subcommittees.

No one had even asked him to sign the Official Secrets Act. Nor was any official holding his hand. Clearly the era of open government is upon us.

But lest Dr Hopwood should get ideas above his station, the British Embassy sent its most battered vehicle, with the driver's door actually missing, to take him to the airport when he left on Tuesday.

Clearly the Berrill report has been taken to heart as well. A grand symposium is being planned to be held in Hamburg next September, about the relations between European and Arab civilizations, and their role in the contemporary world. Fifty professors and 25

personalities are to attend from each side.

Dr Dajani told me that the Arab side had suggested holding it in a European city, in the hope of making a bigger impact on the European press and broadcasting corporations.

We have the feeling that we Arabs know much better about European culture than Europeans know about us," he said. "This is true at the popular level, but much less so at the specialist one."

The Hamburg seminar will in fact be the second that the dialogue has organized. A smaller one, involving only 15 professors on each side, was held in Venice last March and discussed Arab literature and the teaching of Arabic in European universities.

Out of it has come a programme, with a budget, to establish new centres of Arabic teaching in Europe and to strengthen the chairs or departments of Arabic in European universities.

Another project in hand is the establishment of a catalogue of all the institutes on each side which teach the literature or languages of the other side.

A third is a comparative study of history textbooks used in secondary schools on both sides, to find out what European and Arab children are taught about each other.

In brief

## Muldoon search for better deal

Washington, Nov 10.—Mr

Robert Muldoon, the New Zealand Prime Minister, today ended two days of talks with American leaders, including President Carter, which have focused largely on his Government's efforts to secure better access for New Zealand farm products.

He also discussed defence and energy questions. Asked at a press conference about his description of Mr Carter earlier this year as "nothing more than a Georgia peanut farmer", Mr Muldoon would say only that the President was a "very nice" man.

Violence inquiry  
Colombo, Nov 10.—The Sri Lanka Government has appointed a one-man presidential commission to investigate recent violence involving the Tamil minority in which more than 100 people were reported to have died.

Bonington goal  
Chris Bonington, the British climber, is to lead a British expedition next year to climb K2, the second highest mountain in the world, in northern Pakistan.

Hiackers jailed  
Moscow, Nov 10.—Two men who hijacked a Soviet airliner to Helsinki on July 10 have been jailed in Leningrad. They were given a 15-year term and Alexander Zaporozhnyak eight years.

Russian defects  
Washington, Nov 10.—The State Department has confirmed the defection to the American Embassy in Venezuela last Friday of an unnamed Soviet diplomat who is now in the United States as a political refugee.

Iran nuclear deal  
Teheran, Nov 10.—West Germany today signed contracts to build four nuclear power plants in Iran. The deal was completed just a week before the Shah's official visit to the United States.

## President defies left-wing critics

From Our Special

Correspondent

Cairo, Nov 10

President Sadat's long, rambling and at times emotional speech to the Egyptian Parliament last night can be seen as defiance of his left-wing critics both at home and abroad.

On the domestic front, his harshest words were reserved for the unrepentant Nasserists, "those who pretend to be ardent supporters of the July (1952) revolution." Obviously, he balanced this with an attack on the would-be heirs of the 1919 revolution, those who are trying to revive the pre-1952 democratic nationalist party, the Wafd.

Both groups, Mr Sadat said, should have the courage of self-criticism, as he and his supporters had had in launching the "corrective revolution" of May 15, 1971, when he ousted the pro-Soviet group of Mr Ali Sabri and began the process of liberalization. This process has been praised by the Wafd, which is urging Mr Sadat to carry it to its logical conclusion.

Mr Sadat spoke at length of the virtues of democracy, rejecting criticism that the three-party system he has founded is not genuine and claiming that the present Parliament is the first ever to be freely elected in Egypt. He referred to Nasser's economic system as "the socialism of the distribution of poverty."

The President promised firm action to suppress both communists and religious extremists who resort to violence. But he focused on the situation in Egypt, society provoked by the vast differences of incomes produced by capitalism. Parliament should give urgent attention to a tax bill designed to correct this, he said. Otherwise "the country would remain a breeding ground of envy and hatred."

He also showed sensitivity to the increasingly vocal southern Arab anger at the Egyptian role in Saudi Arabia, promising that "no atheist will be placed in any key position and no force will be permitted to shake the faith of the Egyptian people."

In foreign affairs, Mr Sadat gave an implicit warning to other Arab countries (notably Syria) that he would not allow them to block the assembly of the Geneva Middle East peace conference by digging in on procedural issues. "Whatever procedural aspect Israel raised, he said, he would agree to it."

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## Light-hearted Shakespeare play to appear in China

Peking, Nov 10.—A Midsummer Night's Dream will be the first play by Shakespeare to

reappear in translation in China's bookstores, according to informed Chinese sources. It will be the first time since the Cultural Revolution that a work by the bard will be on sale here.

There had been considerable speculation as to which play would be selected. But the light-hearted poetic fantasy of young love and magic is unlikely to raise any political eyebrows—as other Shakespeare works might do.

The sources were unable to say when the play would be available. China has used up much of its available newsprint on producing millions of copies of the fifth volume of the Collected Works of Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

There are a number of books we wish to print so it will take time," the sources said. Translation copies of several of Shakespeare's best-known works—such as Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet and Othello—were available before the Cultural Revolution but disappeared during the turbulent period of extremist ascendancy over the past 10 years.

Beethoven, once condemned as "German capitalist composer" and "bourgeois romantic", is also back in China's orchestral repertoire, along with other composers such as Mozart and Liszt.

Chinese sources said the works of more Western literary and artistic figures were likely to start reappearing as the country returns to a normal cultural life.—Reuters

Leading article, page 15

From Our Own Correspondent

Delhi, Nov 10

The Indian Government has decided to disband Samachar, the country's single news agency which Mrs Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, set up in January, 1975, by the enforced amalgamation of the country's two English language and two Hindi language agencies.

Details are expected to be announced to Parliament after it reassembles next week.

The Government will now have to make substantial financial grants to help the four original agencies, including the Press Trust of India and United News of India, to start up again either separately or in combination.

Bihar, he said, was one state where human rights "have met their Waterloo". Mr Dhan urged Mr Desai to give a new deal to the "untouchable" community and sign this by dismissing the present state administration in Bihar.

There, Mr Dhan said, India condemned in its uncertain terms recent discriminatory moves by the white South African government, leaving the rest of the world in no doubt

about India's sympathy and concern for those whose rights were trampled upon by fellow human beings.

The recent murders of untouchables by higher-caste Hindus in Bihar state, however, had made him wonder "whether we have any reasonable right to condemn South African whites for similar crimes to those which are being perpetrated in no small measure in India."

It was paradoxical, he said, to see India's concern for human rights abroad and "our total disregard for the same in the Indian context."

Mr Dhan said, "We have met their Waterloo". Mr Dhan urged Mr Desai to give a new deal to the "untouchable" community and sign this by dismissing the present state administration in Bihar.



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## Philip French

[illegible]











Law Report November 10 1977  
Queen's Bench DivisionNo defence to action  
for assessed VATCommissioners of Customs and  
Excise v. Holroyd

Before Mr Justice Peter Pain

A person who has been assessed to VAT under section 31 of the Finance Act 1972, and has not made returns for the tax period has no defence to an action by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise for the amount assessed—even though the true position is that he is owed money by the Commissioners for the tax period because he has paid more than his liability for the assessed outputs. The proper defence for him is to appeal against the assessment.

MR JUSTICE PETER PAIN said on an appeal by the commissioners against an order of Master Riddle, who had granted a summary judgment in favour of Mrs Janet Holroyd to the effect that she was liable to pay the assessed VAT.

Section 31(1) gives power to the commissioners to assess tax where a taxable person has failed to make any return. Section 31(6) provides: "Where an amount has been assessed and notified, it shall be subject to the provisions of section 32."

Section 32(1) provides that the assessment shall be subject to the provisions of section 33. Section 33(1) provides that the assessment shall be subject to the provisions of section 34.

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## County council wrong to reject social priority school designation

Lewisham v. Dyfed County Council

Before Mr Justice O'Connor

The Dyfed County Council were held to be wrong in rejecting the designation by the Designating Committee of the Burnham Committee of a school in their area as a social priority school on the ground that the designation was invalid. The designation would have entitled the teachers in the school to additional emoluments.

By failing to make the designation, the council was liable to pay the teachers the additional emoluments.

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designated a social priority school, and as a result Mr Lewis was entitled to an additional 27% a year from June 1, 1974. The local education authority for the school, Dyfed County Council, refused to pay on the ground that the designation was invalid. The designation would have entitled the teachers in the school to additional emoluments.

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to families in receipt of supplementary benefits under the Ministry of Social Security Act 1966; (iv) the proportion of children in the school with serious language difficulties; and (v) the proportion of retarded, disturbed and handicapped children.

The county council attacked the designation of schools in their area on two grounds: (1) that they had proposed no schools for the consideration of the Designating Committee; and (2) that the Designating Committee did not have regard to any of the criteria listed in section 12(5)(b).

There was no dispute about the factual background. On May 6, 1974, the Secretary of State stated in Parliament that the Government had sanctioned the expenditure of approximately £10,000,000 for additional pay for teachers in socially deprived areas in an attempt to reduce the turnover of teachers in those areas. He requested the Burnham Committee to produce a scheme for allocating the money. The Burnham Committee asked all local education authorities in England and Wales to prepare lists of schools in their areas based on the five criteria which were later incorporated into the Order. The committee were thus doing the work needed to enable them to select on recommendations to be forwarded to the Secretary of State pursuant to section 12(5) of the 1965 Act. There was nothing irregular in the procedure adopted, and his Lordship could not think of a better or more responsible way of tackling a very difficult problem.

A list of schools selected on the basis of the five criteria was returned by the county council. When all the lists were returned to the Burnham Committee they showed that some 77,000 teachers were employed. In the listed

schools, but there was only sufficient money for 54 per cent of them. At that stage the position was that all the schools in the lists were qualified for designation but there had to be a cut-off, and recommendations for deciding where the line should be drawn were approved by the committee. The county council submitted that the effect of that was to demonstrate that schools above the line were selected for designation on the basis of the recommendations and not with regard to the five criteria.

That submission was unacceptable. It was quite clear that the recommendations were directed to deciding which schools were below the line. The Burnham Committee had tackled the problem in a sensible way, and there were no grounds for suggesting that they were acting beyond their powers or irregularly in any other way.

As a result the committee cut the county council's list of schools from 32 to 21, and the director of education said that he accepted the list "subject to approval from the education committee of my authority." The county council relied on those words to support their first contention. That reliance showed that the council were under a complete misapprehension of their role. The council had properly proposed a list of schools; they were asked to comment on the list. The Burnham Committee were proposing to designate, but they had no power to veto the committee's decision. Therefore acceptance by the education committee was irrelevant.

The Burnham Committee finally agreed on the recommendations which they were to make to the Secretary of State, including the list of schools to be designated, and they asked him to prepare a

draft Order. It was at that stage under the Order that the committee were required to wear a different hat and construe themselves as a designating committee for the purpose of designating social priority schools. When that became apparent during the trial, the county council applied for leave to amend their defence to allege that the Secretary of State had acted ultra vires in making the Order; alternatively that it was an abuse of his powers under the 1965 Act. That allegation was separate from the issues raised in the original pleadings and had nothing to do with the Burnham Committee or the Designating Committee. His Lordship allowed the amendment and adjourned argument for the Secretary of State to be represented.

The county council decided that their list of schools for designation should be withdrawn and in effect asked the Secretary of State to be represented.

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State to scrap the whole scheme as being bad and defective. The Secretary of State stated that the matter was entirely one for the Burnham Committee and they intended the scheme to go forward. His Lordship had considerable sympathy with the council's attitude. They had no turnover problem with teachers, and they found the scheme defective. But an informed criticism of the whole scheme was a very different thing from the assertion that the Burnham Committee had acted ultra vires. There was no irregularity in anything that the committee had done. The county council's decision to withdraw their list of schools was of no effect, and the Designating Committee were entitled to disregard the withdrawal. The schools had been properly designated for consideration and properly considered.

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Solicitors: Crispin, Willers, & Surry; Sharpe



Charles Hargrove reports from corners of foreign fields that are forever England

# Protecting the half-million silent witnesses to the horrors of two world wars

During a recent call on the British Ambassador in Paris, my attention was drawn to a framed map standing on the mantelpiece of his study. It was a map of northern France literally peppered with red dots. "Where are those?" I asked him. "They are British war cemeteries. I show the map to my French visitors to convince them that Britain's commitment to Europe does not date from 1973," he replied.

That map urged me to go and see some of those cemeteries for myself. Like many who were in the Normandy campaign of 1944, I knew the ones in that part of the country. I had dim recollections of attending at a boy, the dedication by King Edwards VII of the great Canadian memorial at Vimy Ridge, in July 1936, with M. Albert Lebrun, President of the French Republic. I had reported 30 years later on the ceremonies marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of the Somme in the presence of the Duke of Edinburgh. Though April, it was a bitterly cold day, and an icy wind blew across the ridge, dominated by the two huge stone pylons of the memorial, like a pair of arms raised to heaven.

Before their famous attack on the ridge in 1917, the men of the Canadian Corps had, according to *The Times*, "of their own initiative, marked out land, dug trenches, and made all arrangements for the burial of the killed". I had caught a glimpse of the park, around the memorial, preserved as far as possible as it was after the battle, with its trenches and dug outs, and shell craters, though the trees have grown again, and a mantle of grass has spread over the tortured earth.

But I did not appreciate the full extent of the appalling slaughter suffered by the British and Commonwealth armies in the First World War and the rolling countryside of the

Somme and Flanders in hundreds of thousands of white headstones.

The figures are eloquent in themselves, some 575,000 dead of two world wars are commemorated in France, of whom 521,000 died in 1914-1918. It all happened more than half a century ago. Yet even now, not a year passes without some 40 remains on average being turned up by bulldozer or plough. Most are unidentified, "known unto God", as the headstones so often recall. But last year one serviceman actually was identified by name by the staff of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Often a rusty button, part of a boot or of equipment is the only clue to help it in this painstaking detective work.

The war dead, whose remains have been recovered in recent years, are buried in Terlinthun Cemetery, near Boulogne, one of the first to be laid out with the well-known headstones, in the shadow of the column of the Grand Army, commemorating Napoleon's camp at Boulogne in 1804, set up for the invasion of England.

These standard headstones, symbolic in their stark simplicity of equality of sacrifice, caused great controversy when the Imperial War Graves Commission was created in 1917, thanks to the drive and determination of Sir Fabian Ware, the former editor of *The Morning Post*. They were described as "heathen" by many who wanted graves marked by a cross; and the commission was accused by its opponents of being "tyrannical" in its attitude towards the burial of the dead.

He questioned the wisdom of even considering that war graves should last for three hundred years.

## The appalling slaughter suffered by the British armies in the First World War is hard to appreciate

Churchill, as the commission's new chairman, disagreed. Lutyens's stones of remembrance, which, with Reginald Blomfield's cross of sacrifice, are the distinguishing features of British War graves in 140 countries throughout the world, "will exist in 2,000 years, and will preserve the memory of a common purpose pursued by a great nation in the remote past, and will undoubtedly excite the wonder and reverence of future generations".

A chance encounter at Delville Wood, the scene of the baptism of fire of the South African Brigade of the 9th Scottish Division in July, 1916, confirmed Churchill's prediction. Three youngsters from London, collectors of war medals, were painstakingly tracing the grave of an officer and a non-commissioned officer whose medals they had purchased at an auction. They had detailed records for each of them, obtained from local newspapers or official sources, and were spending part of their holiday touring the battlefields of northern France on similar quests.

One might have thought that with the passage of time, memories would grow dim, save for a dwindling band of relatives, and old comrades' associations. For the present generation, the Ypres Salient, Mons, "Pug-

street Wood", Passchendaele, and other battle landmarks are as remote as La Haye Sainte and Quatre Bras.

But thousands of visitors, old and young, come out on a tour of the battlefields and war cemeteries of the Somme and Flanders every year, many from as far afield as Australia, Canada and South Africa, along with a dwindling band of ancient veterans.

For the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Somme, last year, at the great Thiepval memorial, north of Albert, there were only 50 of the original 100,000 men who fought the battle. Designed by Lutyens, on a grandiose scale, it consists of a massive base of pillars rising in a towering series of arches of brick and stone to a height just under that of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. It had to be vast to carry the names of 73,000 missing on the Somme in 1916 and 1917, who have no known grave.

The capital is characteristic of the care taken by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in maintaining the memorials and cemeteries of the First World War. Water and fountains cause the face of the monument was

removed to the depth of one brick, and reconstructed with low porosity bricks, made in Lancashire, some of the most durable bricks in the world. (There were none in France of the same quality.)

Some of the memorials like Delville Wood and the Australian memorial at Villers-Bretonneux were damaged in the Second World War, and had to be repaired. Headstones have to be replaced, and cleaned regularly to remove moss and fungi, and the graves maintained. It was the deliberate intention of the War Graves Commission that the cemeteries should be as far as possible be reminders of the quiet beauty and peace of an English garden, with a wide variety of flowers and shrubs set out and carefully tended lawns.

All this is very costly because of worldwide inflation and the depreciation of sterling. In 10 years the commission's expenditure has trebled, as well as 70 memorials, to reduce staff, to economise without lowering standards. The France area office in Arras which looks after 792 cemeteries in northern France, employs 520 people, two thirds of them French. Fifty-one teams of gardeners, some of whom have been working more than 40 years, look after as many as 30 cemeteries a week.

The commission maintains its own workshop where stone is dressed and cut, and headstones are carved by five French and Italian carvers. Mr Leonard Gibson, the area director, told me that machine cutting of badges and lettering on headstones introduced two years ago with finishing by hand. Four can be produced in a day by this means. The workshop keeps a "library" of 100 metres of regimental blocks.

The ground on which the cemeteries are built is "forever England" having been given in perpetuity by France. But in more than half a century, the face of the countryside has greatly changed. Towns have spread, new roads and motorways have been built. Cemeteries once in open country are now surrounded by houses. Save in extreme cases, the graves are never moved, and their environment is preserved, Mr Gibson told me.

The dead of the First World War are not forgotten. Their resting places are admirably cared for. There is hardly a week that passes in northern France without some commemorative ceremony. To revive fading memories as to why the cemeteries are there, the War Graves Commission has decided over the next few years to provide each cemetery with a memorial in the local language of the campaign and battle from which the casualties arose.

King George V, who made a pilgrimage in 1922 to the first war cemeteries in France and Flanders, said at Terlinthun that he had many times asked himself "whether there can be more potent advocates of peace on earth than this massed multitude of silent witnesses to the desolation of war".

The holocaust of the First World War did not prevent the second. But as Mr Gibson remarked, young people who visit the war memorials cannot but be influenced by their atmosphere. They naturally lead to meditation, and are a deterrent against future conflicts.

An exhibition of the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is being held at the Headquarters of the Institute of British Architects, Portland Place, W.1 from November 29 to December 9. An exhibition of war memorial architecture, Silent Cities, is at steps in the two Galleries, 21 Portman Square, W.1, from November 10 to December 22.

Bernard Levin

## A moral victory is one thing, a real victory is another

I wrote a few weeks ago about the crucial ballot, being held among members of the Civil and Public Services Association. The vote, which under the rules of the CPSSA was consultative only, was on a proposed to institute a system of individual postal votes through the CPSSA, for the election of the President, the Vice-presidents, and the members of the National Executive Committee; hitherto, these posts have been filled by election through branch meetings, and a change to what was being proposed would ensure that unrepresentative (because sparsely attended) meetings would not be able to elect officers unwanted by the members as a whole. In other words, the CPSSA is going through the very same battle as was waged for so long in the AUEW, on each stage of which I reported here. (It called in victory for the principle of postal elections, and the moderate forces have scored victory after victory in consequence.)

As in the AUEW, the forces of the "left" fought and against the proposal, knowing that, since they commanded wide support throughout the union, union-wide postal elections will almost certainly deprive them of much of their power within it. The left in the CPSSA has been divided into two principal groups: the "Redder Tape" faction, which is dominated by the Socialist Workers Party, and the "Broad Left", which is the turn dominated by the Communist Party. There have been attempts to bring about an amalgamation, and in some cases the two groups do co-operate; certainly both have been active in campaigning for a No vote in the referendum.

The issue has been the standard one; that the members who do not attend branch meetings should not have the right to vote in such elections because, although they "will be exposed to all the other influences as (sic) are the rest of us—a mass media (sic) antagonism to real trade unionism" they will make their decision without hearing this union's arguments (sic). In addition, "we think that an active, participative democracy is superior to the passive (sic) democracy (sic) of the postal ballot system".

The members were not impressed. The proposal to introduce postal ballots was endorsed by 75,800 votes to 23,179, or approximately 76.5 per cent. Now as I have said, and as everybody concerned with the referendum has stressed, the vote was advisory only, and cannot itself institute postal elections. That can only be done by a change in the rules of the CPSSA, and the rules say that members of this kind can only be affected by a two-thirds vote at a Rules Revision Conference. The CPSSA has not held such a gathering for 24 years, but it is now doing so, and it is the moderate executive who will be putting the new rules before the members, as just expressed by a three to one majority, into effect. Or rather, they will be hoping to do so.

The conference starts on November 20, at Southampton, and delegates are now being mandated at branch meetings all over the country, for the vital votes. In theory, of course, so massive a vote by the membership as a whole should be enough to make clear to any branch that its delegates ought

to vote for the rule-change, but as the left, whether CP or SWP, are not interested in the members' wishes, the result is by no means certain.

Any CPSSA member who doubts that, and is therefore disinclined to turn up to the mandatory meeting of his or her branch, might care to contemplate an instructive episode from the recent history of my own union, the NUJ; I have recounted it before here, but I think it cannot be often repeated. In 1974 following the passage of the Industrial Relations Act introduced by the Heath Government, all unions had to decide whether they wished to be registered under the Act. The NUJ decided, by a majority vote, that the union should be de-registered, but in view of the importance of the matter, held a special conference. Whereupon, the left-dominated conference promptly voted to reject the decision, and some of the left even tried to ensure the NEC for having the temerity to ask the members what they wanted.

The truth is that the far left, and in particular the groups known as the "Broad Left" (the SWP) have no intention, if they can help it, of abiding by any democratic decision if it goes against them, and this is true of the CPSSA as much as in the NUJ, the AUEW or Equit.

The problem is frequently caused by the fact that many union rule-books were drawn up long ago, before present conditions were even imagined. Equity is the most spectacular example of this; the ease with which special general meetings can be called has meant that a tiny group of fanatical leftists have repeatedly caused such meetings to be convened, at very considerable expense to the union, because they simply will not accept that their policies, and indeed they are rejected by the vast majority of the members. The very fact that the CPSSA has not felt the need to hold a rules revision conference for a quarter of a century demonstrates the indecision of the union's structure and constitution suddenly faced with the intransigence of the minority.

The moderate group within the CPSSA, which has had some notable successes lately, in being elected to the NEC, and in the recent NEC elections, can count the referendum result among its most satisfying and useful achievements. But so far it is a moral victory only, and it will remain one unless it can be translated into a practical one. That is why all CPSSA members are urged to go to their branch meetings within the next few weeks, to ensure that their delegates to the rules revision conference are clearly instructed to vote there for the changes that will put into effect the union's declared wishes. The price of liberty may or not be eternal vigilance; in union matters it is all too often several hours of spurious argument. But neither is too high a price to pay.

On the night a colleague was in dispute with the management over pay and conditions, they would delay the start of the play for half an hour.

The applause, that this announcement drew from the audience was enthusiastic as any of the responses which greeted the play itself once it started.

Prize know-all

## Personalities matter most to the Greek voter

Athenes

In a country like Greece where the average citizen needs an influential intermediary to nudge the unwieldy state machine into motion, the patronage system remains the strongest link between politician and voter. Therefore, when the Greeks go to the polls later this month to elect a new parliament, they will be voting for personalities, for patrons perhaps, but not for political parties.

It is true that efforts were made in recent years to give the Greek parties a more democratic structure. The result was poor. Even the parties that advocate direct popular participation in government decision-making continue to adhere to the old pattern themselves, because a change would involve painful risks for the men at the top.

So, except for the Communist Party, which has different criteria, the Greek parties rely for success on the charisma of their leaders, and the local appeal of their candidates, rather than on concepts of political virtue and practice.

The resulting lack of con-

tinuity is enhanced by the frequent changes even in the names of Greek parties. Eight of the 11 parties contesting elections last year did not exist before 1974. In Greece, most parties are born and die with their leaders.

Not surprisingly, therefore, the floating vote is enormous. Experts estimate that three out of every 10 among 6,000,000 Greek voters will be making up their minds a few days or even a few hours before polling on November 20.

In the coming election the surprises should be minimal. Mr Karamanlis remains by far the most popular leader in Greece. His victory is taken for granted, even if few believe that he can equal his score in the 1974 elections when his New Democracy Party polled 54.4 per cent of the vote securing 219 seats of the 300 in parliament.

The main threat to Mr Karamanlis this time comes, paradoxically, from his right. The National Rally is a new party which aspires to attract disgruntled right-wing voters from the New Democracy. It has essentially a nuisance

value, the more voters it attracts, the smaller Mr Karamanlis's chances of securing a comfortable majority in the chamber.

Who are the disgruntled rightists? There are Greeks who accuse Mr Karamanlis of opening Pandora's Box by legitimising the communist party, alienating Greece from Nato, and showing tolerance to the left—politically, economically, and socially. Some of them were admirers of the junta, the military dictatorship of 1967-74. There are also some ardent and vengeful royalists, who believe that Mr Karamanlis betrayed the monarchy. They want to punish him for this.

To give these disgruntled voters an outlet Mr Stefanos Stefanopoulos, the veteran ex-premier, was hastily induced to set up the National Rally. As a protest party it is bound to suffer from the natural reluctance of the Greeks, especially the rightists, to waste a good vote on a party that has no chance.

The prejudice against the left vote is likely to hurt another newcomer, the Neoliberal, a small party founded by Mr Constantine Mitsotakis who relies heavily on personal appeal in his native Greece. He is trying to broaden this appeal by reassuring disenchanted businessmen of his support for free enterprise, in the hope of attracting the right-of-centre voters who might desert the New Democracy.

The main claim to this floating vote, however, belongs to the Democratic Centre Union

under Mr George Mavros who was chief opposition leader in the last three years. He hopes to bolster the 20.4 per cent vote that his party polled in 1974, thanks to the anticipated repatriation of centre voters from Mr Karamanlis.

Mr Mavros's left, however, remains exposed because of the defection last year of a group of socialist intellectuals. It is the voters on this weakened wing that Mr Mavros is keen to protect from the lures of Pasok, the Panhellenic Socialist Movement, of Mr Andreas Papandreu who seems determined to beat the centre to second place and become the major opposition.

That, in fact, is where the toughest election battle will be fought, and the fierceness of the polemics between the two men already shows that no holds are barred.

To broaden his following of 1974 (14 per cent of the electorate) Mr Papandreu has trained his sights both on the left on Mr Mavros's party and on the half-million young first voters. This duality of objectives reflects a latent conflict within Pasok, between the party's powerful Marxist core and its less radical parliamentary group. The latter is eager to attract the left-of-centre group that mistrusts Marxism.

Mr Papandreu who, sees the centre rather than Mr Karamanlis as his main adversary today, naturally spurned an offer from Mr Mavros to set up a united front to defeat Mr Karamanlis. His refusal is

likely to cost him the votes of many lefties who believe that to unseat the right-wing from power should be the main objective at all times.

Mr Papandreu would have felt the pull on the left more strongly if the Greek communists were not so hopelessly divided. In 1974, thanks to an alliance of convenience, they polled 9.5 per cent of the votes. But now the Moscow-oriented Communist Party of Greece (KKE) is standing alone in a stocktaking exercise to tackle the major problems confronting Greece at home and abroad, with the added confidence that KKE is the only genuine product.

Significantly, the KKE leaders have left the election campaign to fly to Moscow for the sixtieth anniversary of the October Revolution—a pilgrimage that sets the Kremlin's seal of approval on their party.

The Eurocommunists, who cannot face the challenge alone, have joined forces with four other socialist splinter groups in an Alliance of Progressive and Left Forces under the leadership of Mr Elias Kiriakou. He warns that the Alliance will be the "surprise" of the next elections.

Mr Karamanlis, in a recent interview, said that he did not expect a landslide victory nor massive support from the opposition. "For this reason I changed the electoral law to favour the opposition

parties and bring about a milder political climate. What I need is a fresh mandate."

At this juncture, the chances are that the new government will be a coalition. Many Greeks believe that whether or not he obtains a working majority, Mr Karamanlis should broaden the base of his government by joining forces with Mr Mavros in a grand coalition—a move that most parties would apparently welcome.

For one thing, Mr Karamanlis himself would be able to tackle the major problems confronting Greece at home and abroad, with the added confidence that he was speaking for the vast majority of the people. And, besides drawing on the excellent talent available in the centre, when the time came for him to step up to the Presidency of the Republic, he would be able to muster most parliamentary support.

The centre itself would share power and even more important, influence government policies. While Mr Papandreu would, in this way, see his aspirations to become the chief opposition leader, fulfilled. Above all, a grand coalition would reintroduce to Greece the blessing of political concord, and temper party rivalry, and thus become aggravated after a quarter of a century of unintermittent single-party rule.

Mario Modiano

## THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

### The labyrinthine world of Feliks Topolski

I was privileged the other day to stroll through the life and times of Feliks Topolski with the master at my side, pointing out the milestones. From next January, you will be able to take the same journey, but you will not have the fabulous Pole as personal guide. Instead, you will have printed notes, giving just enough information to illumine the road.

Should you be mystified by the above paragraph, let me explain: Feliks Topolski has turned one of his studios under the Highgate Road, in London's south bank, into his autobiography.

His *opus vitae* would stretch for 600ft if its individual sections were placed side by side. Instead, the high, wooden flats—like so much stage scenery—have been assembled as a labyrinth, through which you can wander and wonder.

Famous faces, famous and infamous events: some instantly recognisable; others so impressionistic that they look like memories shaken by a hurricane. And all in colour, that

### What about a rise for the tax men if they reduce their productivity?



As the Director-General of the Ordnance Survey prepares to disband his department's archaeology field survey section, an ironic tribute has been paid to specialists in this field. A report from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites of Wales and Monastic Sites

### Slow fall for the hammer

The Consumers' Association, who publish *Which?* magazine, have been receiving complaints from subscribers in London, Essex and Hertfordshire that copies of this month's issue which hammers British Rail "inefficient, dirty, expensive, unreliable" have been arriving late. Even the general manager of their own circulation department did not get his copy, so naturally they investigated.

The trail led to British Rail who quite inadvertently got their own back by dumping a rail van loaded with magazines on a siding somewhere between Waltham and Redditch, and leaving it there for several days.

### Out of order

What you may well be wondering is going on at the Royal Ballet? The newly decorated Crush Bar is fun, but ballet buffs are disturbed about the quality of dancing on stage. The other night, in spite of the enthusiastic applause of the hazy fringe, the dancing in *Les Noctes* was so unduly that it wondered if the piece had been rehearsed.

Talking to some of the staff...

### Delayed visit for Mr Prentice

That well-known floor-crosser, Reg Prentice, who made his debut on the Conservative back benches last week, is not after all to be deprived of the annual seaside conference jamboree. A regular attendee at Labour Party conferences, he could hardly have visited Brighton this year, having left the Labour ranks, and his appearance at Blackpool for the Tory conference would have looked a shade odd. Delegates would have drawn the natural conclusion that he was looking for a Conservative seat.

### Figaro here but Figaro not there

Somebody high up at the Post Office really ought to have a word with someone lower down at the Post Office about something which has caused colleagues of mine much anger and cost them much valuable time. One of them asked directory inquiries for the telephone number 1, Park of Le Figaro. The operator said the newspaper was not on the telephone. Told by my colleague that Le Figaro must be on the telephone, the operator said she would try again. Half an hour later, she came back and said that she had looked down at the "Le" entries but Le Figaro was not listed.

My incredulous colleague told the operator that to look for Le Figaro under the "Le" entries was like looking down the "The" columns for *The Times*. A few days later, another colleague tried to reach Le Figaro. There was the same ghastly hiatus.

My thanks to those readers of this diary who, during the

### Show must go on—eventually

The civil theatre in Nice has been staging a play attacking the bureaucratic constraints with which a creative artist is faced. The company, led by actor-writer-director Jean-Pierre Bissou, sing, dance and overact their way through a piece that ends in Molière's death.

On the night a colleague was in dispute with the management over pay and conditions, they would delay the start of the play for half an hour.

The applause, that this announcement drew from the audience was enthusiastic as any of the responses which greeted the play itself once it started.

Prize know-all

The British winner of the European Journalists Prize for 1977 is Paul Hodgson of the BBC. The award, voted by the European press corps, is well deserved. Mr Hodgson kept the BBC flag flying in Brussels. It

## Fuzul's sister cares. But who will provide tomorrow's mouthful?



Fuzul lives in Bangladesh, a country still stricken with the aftermath of famine, where two out of every three infant deaths occur in children under five.

Fuzul is one of the lucky ones. Save the Children found him just in time. Now his sister helps to keep him nourished.

Nevertheless, 36,000 infants died in Bangladesh last year, and we were helpless to help them. The despair of the bewildered parents was heart-rending.

To continue feeding Fuzul, and the 5,000 like him in his area who depend on us for their food every day, we need your help. And we need it now.

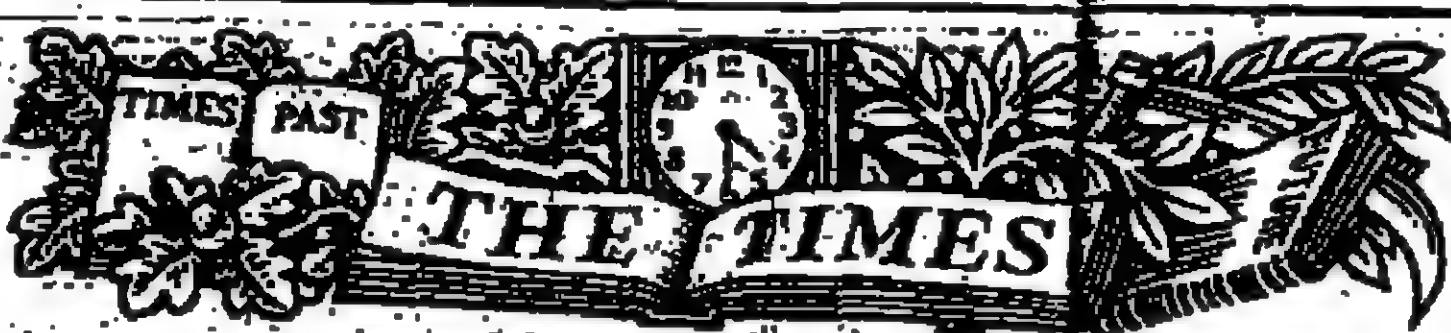
Our avowed aim is to help the local people to help themselves. That's why we loaned them seed to grow a new potato crop, and money to buy new fishing nets. With their eventual surplus produce, they can repay the loan, and we can invest the money in another needy project. You can help us to carry on this fight against disease, ignorance and poverty by giving as much as you can right now, or remembering us in your will.

When you give, they live.

Please accept my donation of £10.00 (enclosed cash/postal order) cheque/Giro No. 1739001.

Name \_\_\_\_\_





## THE NORTH SEA DEBATE

This week *The Times* has been carrying a series of articles on North Sea oil and its potential effects on the British economy. The final article in the series appears today on page 21. The aim has been to contribute to the debate about how the advantages which flow from this great natural resource should best be exploited in the long-term interests of the British people as a whole. It is a debate that should be taken a step further when the Government eventually publishes its own promised discussion document on the subject before the end of the year.

It is evident that North Sea oil will rapidly and substantially affect two aspects of the economy. The current account of the balance of payments has already been transformed by the start of physical production of North Sea oil. The improvement still has far to go. It ensures the British economy of a substantial and growing current account surplus for the foreseeable future. Secondly, once the operating companies start paying taxes on their North Sea operations, in substantial quantities from 1980, onward the fiscal position of the central government will be greatly improved. In these circumstances it will be possible to have a lower level of taxation for a given level of government expenditure; or a higher level of government spending for a given level of taxation; or some

combination of the two. The second aspect opens up a whole range of social and political issues and options, which will certainly be central to the debate about the conduct of public affairs for the next decade.

At the more narrow economic and industrial level the issues raised by the advent of North Sea oil can be gathered into two categories. First, there is the question of the rate at which the oil reserves should be used. For the next year or so the issue is largely academic, as the Government needs as much foreign exchange as it is likely to get in order to repay the national indebtedness, accumulated in the 1970s. And the oil companies will be equally eager to get returns on their large investments. As we get further into the 1980s, however, there may be an increasing conflict between a national interest in conserving oil reserves and a commercial interest in their more rapid exploitation. Added to this will be the issue of the proportion of North Sea oil which should be refined and then further processed by the petroleum industry in the United Kingdom. Here again there may be conflict between commercial and national interests.

Most important, however, are the questions which arise in relation to the future exchange rate of the pound. As our articles have shown, economists, like politicians, are greatly

divided by this issue. Should the pound be allowed to rise in response to the strong upward pressure on the exchange rate that is likely to continue, thus contributing to a higher standard of living and a lower rate of inflation, but making the immediate task of uncompetitive sectors of British industry substantially more difficult? Or should the authorities manage the pound's exchange rate downwards so that it more nearly reflects the falling competitiveness of the industrial economy as a whole? Under either regime, by what mechanism will the non-oil sector of the British economy be regenerated so that it can take up the strain as North Sea oil begins to run out? These are the questions on which the national debate should centre.

At this preliminary stage we would only offer one conclusion. Though for analytical purposes it may be helpful to think of the British economy in terms of the oil and the non-oil sector, in the world of money and the foreign exchanges there is no such division. It will not be possible for a country running a current account surplus of the proportions now in prospect for the United Kingdom simultaneously to push its exchange rate downwards year after year. The regeneration of competitiveness or the restructuring of British industry for the 1990s will therefore have to be tackled more directly.

price competition should not be given right away.

Abandonment of their price-fixing role need not mean the demise of IATA. The organization has other more useful functions, including the maintenance of safety and technical standards. It should also be allowed to act as a forum for the registration of fares in the future. It has the complicated machinery for doing so. Governments have not, and cannot have without the establishment of an extensive new bureaucracy. But IATA will have to consider the will to be competitive, and there was some sign of that will emerging in Madrid this week. Necessary drives for if the IATA airlines had not initiated the move, it would soon have been forced on them by governments and consumers who have had more than enough of artificially high prices.

## COMPETITION IN THE AIR

Amidst protestations that they are not the predatory, price-fixing cartel which most people believe they are, the International Air Transport Association have this week at their annual meeting in Madrid made a significant move towards allowing the invigorating breeze of competition to blow into air fares. IATA, a consortium of 109 airlines representing eighty-five countries, receives few plaudits, but this news will be welcome to everybody who uses scheduled air services throughout the world. They can now look forward to paying less for their travel, which, in certain areas and particularly in Europe, is ludicrously over-priced.

IATA were pushed into exchanging their traditional policy of setting fares without any element of competition for one which will allow governments and individual airlines to establish competitive fares reflecting market forces. The impetus

## BOTTOM TRANSLATED-INTO CHINESE

One tiny group in the Chinese population—the novelists, poets, dramatists, painters and composers whose progressive outlook had won them a respectability following in the decades after communist rule—the changes being made by China's new leadership must bring a sensation as of awakening from a very bad dream. "Methought was" but unlike Bottom ratcheting his ass's ears, many of these intellectuals have for years been wearing metaphorical headgear, hats, as the Chinese term it, tagged as "bourgeois revisionist", "bad element", "counter-revolutionary" and the like. These have not simply been marks of condemnation or abuse. China's political, cultural and literary life has been marked by failure, some political test or distinction those found to be out of step in some political campaign "he is wearing a hat", it could be whispered. And that meant restrictions, demeaning tasks, public disrepute and a sledge to be worked back to ordinary life by good revolutionary conduct when the "hat" could be removed.

Whether or not they were so bled, many of these names from the past are in favour again with the promise that their work will soon be back in print. Pa Chin, the novelist, Tao Yü, the dramatist, Lao She, the novelist who was cruelly driven to suicide in the cultural revolution (as Lau Shaw some of his novels were familiar in English translation), Hsu Pei-hung, the artist whose prancing horses in reproduction have never lost their popularity in the west, or Chi Fa-shih, an artist whose humble origins served him for the first few years of the new regime but not when the revolutionary temperature heated up. All of them belonged to that generation of Chinese that fully appreciated and generally welcomed the best of western culture. After 1949 their contact with it was soon attenuated and latterly quite severed. So, now, Beethoven, Bach and Chopin have returned to the concert hall in China and western classical music, like the Gogol, Balzac, Hugo—are going back into print "in a planned way", says the State Publishing Administration Bureau. Yesterday it was reported that the first Shakespearean play will soon

reappear and what better than one in which that "good element" the self-confident representative of the proletarian Athenian theatre is so prominent? Man is but a patched fool if he should look upon the past decade of Chinese culture as normal. "A Midsummer Night's Dream" will soon be on sale.

But western man had better not think that a country that has known literary censorship throughout its imperial millennium is going very far to liberate its writers in this post-Maoist dawn. The spokesman of the Ministry of Culture is specific: "some western observers interpret the principle 'let a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend' as 'liberalization'. This is wrong. Diversity of themes and forms does not mean bourgeois liberalization. Maybe not. But new thinking comes from liberated minds, a condition to which we must strive in all cultures." However, much Chairman Mao held intellectuals in contempt those in China will now feel much more relaxed and a little more free, besides being more in touch with the world.

## London Film Festival

on the Chairman of the National Council of Film Festivals

A propos your film critics' cresting preview of London's own festival (November 4) I am pleased that the coming of age of Festival next week is to pass remarked just as the silver jubilee of the birth of the National in Theatre on October 24 has not allowed to pass without any celebration appropriate to the occasion. At a time when the British film industry is in a state of pendency and disarray it is inappreciable that success is due to the creation of the National Film Theatre and the London Film Festival should not be left unmentioned. It is unthinkable that any other country in Europe presented with similar opportunity to proclaim its achievements would not do so.

The London Film Festival has built up a considerable international reputation over the past years and is highly regarded as well as abroad. Why then are there no fanfares and why plans to take advantage of the deserved not to mention useful publicity which attends celebration of this kind? It can hardly be anything to do with costs and medals since it is nearly always able to find support for imaginative enterprises. During the last year when the government grant the British Film Institute was £75,000 as against £3.5m. all of the extensions to the festival's work including the building of the present National Film Theatre and the London Film Festival had to be, and were, financed from non-governmental sources.

## Composition of juries

From Mrs Shirley Kothrower  
Sir, Your leader (November 3) refers to the fact that four defendants in a pornography trial were finally able to obtain an alibi. I am sure that the learned gentlemen of the legal profession would be interested to know that during my 20 years on a busy city bench I found my women colleagues far less prone than the men to get hot under the collar where cases of sexual deviations were concerned. Yours faithfully,  
SHIRLEY KOTHIROWER,  
2 The 2nd Century House,  
Oakley Park,  
Frilford Heath,  
Abingdon,  
Oxfordshire.

## Religious education

From The Headmaster of Bromsgrove School  
Sir, With great respect I think my friend and colleague Mr. Martin Rogers confuses teaching with indoctrination. William Temple used to say that if you wished to know what was excelling in Oxford Common Room sixty years ago you should

## Year of the mouse

From the Ambassador to Saudi Arabia  
Sir, Driven to desperation by the frugal diet available in the kitchens of a modern, purposive, Central Policy Review, I have been becoming anthropomorphic. Last night in bed I was twice bitten by a mousing mouse.

Yours astutely,  
JOHN WILTON,  
HM Ambassador,  
British Embassy,  
Jeddah,  
Saudi Arabia.  
November 3.

## Not a vote of confidence?

From Mr George Cunningham, MP for Livingston, South and Fife (Labour)

Sir, As we approach the critical vote on the development bill one hears talk of the Prime Minister deciding to "make the issue one of confidence in the Government". A vote of confidence is so called because it takes place on a motion that the House has or has not confidence in Her Majesty's Government. A vote on a specific issue like development cannot be made into a vote of confidence by the Prime Minister's action.

It is a regret if Parliament's decision on a great constitutional measure of this importance and of such a character were to be determined by misrepresentation about our constitutional conventions. Since we have no convention, there is no legal compulsion on a government to resign in any circumstances. However, it would clearly be a breach of established convention if a government failed to resign following a defeat on a motion of confidence explicitly so expressed. The convention does not apply to any other motion.

In France the constitution permits the government to stretch its authority to vote on a specific issue and requires the Government to fall if it loses the vote. No one has ever suggested that this device should be adopted by our system; and it would be a destructive of parliamentary democracy if it were to become so.

This is not to say that a Prime Minister cannot announce, as a matter of fact, that he has decided on the resignation of his Government at Buckingham Palace the next morning. Members would not be such a statement on its merits but it would not make the vote one of confidence in the constitutional sense, nor in the sense in which the term is used in the Parliamentary Labour Party's code of conduct.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE CUNNINGHAM,  
House of Commons.  
November 10.

## Oil and the trade balance

From Sir Frederick Catherwood

Sir, I read two American magazines (November 2), *Business Week* and *Newsweek*, both of which mentioned the change in our foreign trade balance. The British balance of payments would have gone into surplus in the third quarter without any aid from the 12 months' improvement in oil revenue. Within a quarter's surplus the quarter's improvement in oil revenue was £440m. The equivalent improvement in non-oil exports, £1,750m, was produced by a rise of 13.7 per cent in total volume of exports over twice the long-term rate of growth.

Exports of goods and services are now running at about £50,000m a year. The net annual import of oil still to be saved by home production is £2,500m, only 5 per cent of exports. Our health as a trading country depends overwhelmingly on our exports. Oil is a welcome bonus and well wisely can be a great help. It would be too quagmire to wish to be troubled at all.

Yours,  
FRED CATHERWOOD,  
Chairman, British Overseas Trade Board,  
Victoria Street, SW1.  
November 2.

From Sir Peter Tennant  
Sir, Why worry so much about the embarrass of riches of our £20,000m reserves, the third largest in the world? They almost match the debts we have to pay off by about 1985, while some £4,000m are probably for money and sensitive to such situations as excessive wage demands which undermine international confidence.

We have still got to do a good deal better in increasing our manufactured exports, now and in the future, to match up to the North Sea petroleum which is a remarkable example of successful international private investment and high productivity which the rest of industry must emulate. Yours faithfully,  
PETER TENNANT,  
Blue Anchor House,  
Lincoln Road,  
Haslemere,  
Surrey.  
November 3.

## From Mr Robert Mabro

Sir, Students of oil exporting countries are familiar with the following pattern of socio-economic behaviour. Significant discoveries and development of petroleum resources inevitably result in (1) a strengthening of the currency, balance of payments surplus and accumulation of foreign exchange reserves; (2) a sharp rise in the standard of living; (3) higher rates of inflation; (4) improvement in living standards; (5) wasteful public expenditure on prestige and other silly projects; (6) social tensions and increased corruption in public life. The first characteristic of this pattern has already been visible—and surprisingly both Government and Opposition seem to have been taken a bit by surprise. Of course, both political parties hope to cash in on (4). But who is preparing to cope with all the rest?

ROBERT MABRO,  
St Antony's College,  
Oxford.

## New BBC wavelengths

From Miss Colleen Margeson  
From Sir With all due respects to Mr Newby (November 8) VHF is quite useless in this area (NW London) owing to the interference of radio cabs and police cars, whereas the present medium wavelength is excellent.

We would like to believe everything in the garden is going to be lovely, but we doubt it very much. Many Radio 3 listeners, who can no longer afford concert and opera tickets, rely on Radio 3 for their music and just have not got the money to go out and buy elaborate new equipment. Yours faithfully,  
COLLEEN MARGESON,  
15 Hamilton Terrace, NW4.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Standing up to strikes

From Sir Kenneth Corley

Sir, Mr Cecil Gould asks (November 8) what we can do in the face of strikes. One thing would be to treat them as we treat all other forms of blackmail, which is to ensure that not one modicum of gain results from the use of this inhuman weapon. As one thing a strike was a last resort. Now it is more often an opening gambit. This fact, together with the altered structure of society, completely alters its morality. A strike, in its modern ugly form, must be nothing. To deny it its gain will bring hardship and suffering and unpaid cost, but until we stand and face it we can only appease it while we watch its demands grow more and more destructive. Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH CORLEY,  
Yewtree,  
Wesdale,  
Scales,  
Cumbria.  
November 9.

### From the Reverend M. Eyles

Sir, Your distinguished correspondence has been referred to several aspects of the power workers' dispute but none touched on a vital point, so it falls to an obscure retired person to submit that there is no moral justification for industrial action in modern circumstances. Originally a strike was a just war against a grasping individual employer refusing to pay his workers even subsistence wages. He could choose between bankruptcy and giving in to the strikers. The consumer could buy what he wanted from a rival—there being no monopolies.

Now the members of the Electricity Board or the Coal Board will not be made bankrupt and the power workers are not (like my slum parishioners 40 years ago) on the near starvation line. The burden falls on the consumers who suffer inconvenience, hardship, even danger to life; and they have no power to grant or withhold what the workers demand. Obviously the strike weapon is as barbarous as the duel—once the cherished "right" of free men—and

should be equally banned by law. It should not be, it must not be, beyond the wit of man to devise rules and special courts whereby these claims for money—like claims for debt or damages—can be justly settled.

If the workers' claims are as righteous as they make out, they should have nothing to fear. Yours faithfully,  
MONTAGUE EYLES,  
The Stable Flat,  
Oxford Court,  
Near Sevenoaks,  
Kent.  
November 9.

### Settling differentials

From Professor Elliott Jacques

Sir, May I be permitted a brief postscript to my letter of October 27 and the ensuing correspondence? The support from Sir Anthony Bowley, Lord Brown, Mr Jack Lee and others for some form of permanent institution to deal with differentials is gratifying. But where are the official voices? Surely it is not a matter of fact, and not a matter of political debate, that the central problem of incomes policy is the fight over differentials, relative pay, pecking order. That battle is now joined. No amount of false productivity deal offers will lessen the interclass warfare which is tearing at the nation.

The silence on the differentials issue from the Government, the Opposition, the TUC, the economic advisers, is disgraceful, or cowardly, or sheer folly. A commission is required immediately to consider what permanent arrangement can be instituted to provide a setting in which differential equity can be settled in a reasoned manner. Cannot your editorial voice, Sir, be raised in this cause? Yours faithfully,  
ELLIOTT JACQUES,  
Brunel University,  
Institute of Organisation and Social Studies,  
School of Social Sciences,  
Kingston Lane,  
Uxbridge,  
Middlesex.  
November 9.

### Employment and the law

From Mr D. G. Gitzos

Sir, Mr Booth, the employment minister, is quoted in your column today (November 4) as saying "We have seen no hard evidence so far to support the allegations that have been made about the adverse effects of employment legislation on the labour market". It would be interesting to learn what steps Mr Booth or his department have taken to acquaint themselves with the realities of the situation amongst independent employers, who provide jobs for 10 million people.

We do not recognise, indeed we reject, the establishment's concept of "the two sides of industry". We recognise that people have a force on us a system of employee relationships which crushes the "them versus us" concept. The political self interest of a large number of influential people in our country requires them to exaggerate and magnify the possibilities for conflict in our society—but it is no way to run a business.

### Creating royal peerages

From Mr John Lee, MP for Hants (Labour)

Sir, The decision not to grant either Prince or Princess a hereditary peerage is a most serious error. It is the occasion of the birth of their child raises a number of important questions.

In the first place it is a constitutional decision taken with no discussion in Parliament and apparently without reference to the several Commonwealth countries that are monarchies, and possibly even without reference to the British Cabinet and Scandinavian counterparts. Yet this week's decision is all too clearly a step, albeit furtively, in that direction. Perhaps those responsible would be good enough to explain just why it was taken and if it is intended to represent a real change in the constitution about which neither Parliament nor people have been

Yours,  
JOHN LEE,  
House of Commons.  
November 9.

### The Balfour declaration

From Mr A. L. Tibawi

Sir, May I comment on the article by Mr S. J. Goldsmith on the Balfour Declaration (November 2). The writer's assertion that the declaration was not in 1917 but was not a declaration is inaccurate. At the Cabinet meeting on October 31, when the declaration was approved, Balfour explained its meaning as "full facilities for the Jews to build up a 'home' of national life". It did not mean the "early establishment of a Jewish state" which he said depended on gradual development.

Nor is there any contemporary evidence that Leopold Amery was the real author of the text of the declaration which he is alleged to have produced only twelve minutes before the meeting on October 31. The truth is that on June 19 an under-secretary submitted a minute to Balfour on which the latter wrote: "I have asked Dr Rothschild and Prof Weizmann to submit a formula." The Zionist leaders produced one which was sent to Balfour with a

### Silencing burglar alarms

From Mr C. P. Nicholson

Sir, My namesake (October 30) is rather penitent about burglar alarm, seems to overlook the fact that he has spent a considerable sum of money on installation without either believing or being told by their insurance company that one is necessary. I have recently been forced to join the latter class, and my brokers assure me that this will become an increasingly common requirement, especially around London.

## Mapping buried history

From the Director General of the Ordnance Survey

Sir, We would like to correct some impressions which may have arisen from your article on the Ordnance Survey's archaeological activity (*The Times*, October 25) and which are reflected in subsequent correspondence. There is no intention either to disband the Ordnance Survey's Archaeological Branch or to discontinue publication of the Ordnance Survey Period Maps. As in the past, Ordnance Survey large scale topographical maps will depict appropriate archaeological details. The Ordnance Survey will also continue to maintain the national non-intensive record of antiquities.

With regard to period maps, you may be aware that the Ordnance Survey is now required to work towards ensuring that any small scale map publications are self-supporting. Existing maps in the series will continue on sale so long as there is a demand for them, and provided that the costs of any new publications, or revision of existing ones, are reasonably justified by anticipated revenue. These will be prepared and published.

Two changes are to be made. The OS will, in future, obtain archaeological information from local professional archaeological sources. Most country archaeologists in England, Wales and Scotland have agreed to cooperate and we have the new arrangements, which have been under discussion since 1974, will be fully effective by early 1979 when Ordnance Survey's own programme for the collection of information from already published sources is likely to be complete. Since the OS does not employ professionally qualified field archaeologists we have not any of these arrangements will not only reduce duplication but also improve the reliability of archaeological classification and we have every hope that we can rely on the cooperation of the archaeological profession to ensure success.

The second change concerns the deployment of some topographic surveyors who have hitherto been concerned solely with mapping of visible antiquities. For reasons of economy and good management these surveyors will in future be deployed more locally under the direction of the appropriate OS regional controller, and will not be restricted to the mapping of archaeological details. They will continue to be mapped, according to the authoritative information which is provided by local sources, and if special expertise is required in particular cases, then this will be available. Yours faithfully,  
WALTER SMITH,  
Director General,  
Ordnance Survey,  
Romney Road,  
Maidenhead,  
Southampton.  
November 9.

## Sculptured elms

From Mr John Whitney

Sir, I was fascinated by Ian Hunter's suggestion (October 10) that diseased elm trees standing in the parks should be left in an upright position and offered to trained sculptors to work upon.

For some good to come out of the arboreal disaster of the century seems to me to be quite admirable and as an amateur sculptor myself I would like to start the ball rolling by offering the services of this radio company to sponsor such a scheme in London parks. Naturally, the relevant park authorities would want to choose the trained sculptors, but we would be prepared not only to arouse public interest in the scheme but to put our hands in our pockets to help to turn these eyesores into something of beauty.

The opportunities for seeing artists and craftsmen at work are rare and I believe that the imagination of London would be caught by Mr Hunter's scheme. Yours faithfully,  
JOHN WHITNEY,  
Managing Director,  
Capital Radio Limited,  
Euston Tower, NW1.  
November 8.

## Cleaning up Parliament

From Mr Greville Janner, QC, MP for Leicester, West (Labour)

Sir, The black of the Palace of Westminster is not beautiful. The Mother of Parliaments has a filthy facade which becomes more expensive to clean, year by year. A good clean air policy will do more good than blasting, as we have in Sheffield. Nothing looks sadder than a "cleaned" building quickly going dirty again. Hard limestone comes up well but even so it tends visibly to disappear into the concrete background. A stark black outline, after all, has its points. Yours, etc.,  
R. ROBSON,  
2 Oakburn Court,  
Broomhall Road,  
Sheffield.

## From Mr N. J. Moore

Sir, The continuing preoccupation with cleaning up the outside of Parliament is quite astonishing. Nero, that should be living at this hour! Yours sincerely,  
N. J. MOORE,  
Court House,  
Downton,  
Salisbury,  
Wiltshire.



In 1954 a geologist working in Siberia discovered an important diamond-bearing volcanic pipe. Diamonds, mostly for industrial use, are a vital Soviet export and earn hard currency which the suffering economy has much need of. The geologist was a woman, and her work is a small but pertinent example of the crucial role women play in the Soviet economy, from those who mend the roads to those who have reached top professional status. They form over 51 per cent of the country's labour force, and if they suddenly dropped tools the whole place would collapse.

Of the total number of workers in industry 48 per cent are women. In education the figure for women is 72 per cent. Three out of four doctors are women, as are a third of all qualified engineers and two out of five scientists. These figures (for 1975) look and are impressive with one important reservation: where the percentage of women is highest in the professions—doctors and teachers—the pay, though equal for both sexes, is low. Only in making such comparisons does one come across the hidden inequalities no one will talk about, which alter the rosy statistical picture.

Women also work in a lot of jobs in the West think unsuitable—the building trade for one—but disparaging comments are not necessarily in order. It is too easily forgotten, or not even known, that the Soviet Union suffered 20,000,000 military and civilian casualties in the last war and that it has

millions of war widows for whom jobs had to be found or who quite simply stayed doing the jobs they did when the men went to the front. Altogether, 93 per cent of Soviet women are either working or studying. They still live, by our standards, thoroughly uncomfortable lives, but they produce, as well as babies, more and more of the country's brainpower, at least in the middle reaches of industry and the professions. This does not alter the basic fact that society in the Soviet Union is still as male-dominated as any of its Western neighbours—only we admit it and they do not. Not even the women themselves will budge from the Party line, at least not officials. Wrangling out of facing the truth when it does not suit them is a Russian disease few are vaccinated against.

The flaw is obvious: with only rare exceptions, women do not get to the very top, particularly in politics, which means the Communist Party. There is no Mrs Thatcher in Moscow, but then, if one stops to think of it, Mrs Thatcher is still singular in her eminence even here. How many women does she have in her Shadow Cabinet? One.

A fair amount of drivel has been written in the Western press over the years about Soviet women, much of it irritatingly patronizing. Much criticism is caused, I suspect, by the rubbish written about women and their socialist vocation. But once one backs a way through the mass of distasteful

## Foreign Report

# What equality means to women in the Soviet Union

verbiage, certain trends emerge. Many Soviet women have a grindingly hard time of it but they also have some psychological and even physical advantages.

First, Soviet women do have equality under the law, guaranteed by the constitution and they have had it for a long time.

This constitutional equality is of enormous moral and psychological significance, even if it is not always real. Even Lenin observed (how nice to be able to agree with him for a change) that passing laws about equality was only the beginning of it. And when one thinks of the uncertain passage of the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution which has been around for nearly 50 years and still is not ratified, one wonders if perhaps people in Western glass houses should not throw stones.

In the new Soviet Constitution, which has just been ratified, there is a subtle change of wording on the equal rights

issue. Whereas the old 1936 Stalin constitution said men and women should have equality, Article 35 of the new constitution starts with the bald sentence, "In the USSR women have equal rights with men."

This change was brought to my attention by the Olympic medalist, Elena Vladimirovna Petushkova (gold in the dressage team event and silver in the individual). She is also a senior research worker in the biological faculty of Moscow University, and she told me that through her trade union, which organized meetings to discuss the new constitution, she was one of the first people to propose this new phrasing as an amendment to the draft.

The change of wording genuinely reflects the feelings of all the women I interviewed, some highly critical of the regime on other issues, that they really have made it and that they really are equal, or at least as equal as they wish to be.

For example, when I asked Nelya Ramazanova, editor of the

English edition of the magazine *Soviet Women*, if she thought there were enough women members of the Soviet Communist Party (24 per cent). I was taken aback by her reply. "Yes," she said simply, she did think that was quite enough. She went on to explain that she herself was a member of the Communist Party, and that on top of her work as a journalist and her role as wife and mother she had a third active commitment to the Party.

Not all that many women, she said, wanted to supercharge their lives in this way. Others I talked to confirmed this view. They had got where they wanted in their chosen professions, to why should they exhaust themselves struggling up the Party ladder? And herein lies the key, I feel, to much inequality between the sexes both in the West and in the Soviet Union: lack of ambition. On the other hand, none of them confessed to any of the hang-ups or guilt feel-

ings about working when their children were very small—unlike their occidental Western counterparts who so often do. Here they seem to me to have a distinct emotional advantage. And it is in child-care facilities (though definitely not in health care) that they really have the edge over the West. A Soviet mother can park her baby in a crèche all day at two months old if she wants to; though most prefer not to; the kindergarten facilities are on a big scale and still being expanded, and if necessary, children can stay there from Monday to Friday, only going home at the weekend. This may seem to be an appalling disruption of family life, but for those divorced or for unmarried mothers—called in the constitution "mothers without breadwinners"—it must be salvation.

Older children can remain at school under supervision to do their homework to get round the problem of "latch-key"

children. The working mothers I talked to saw the vital importance to them of feeling that their children were properly cared for during working hours.

Even so there is still a lot of grumbling about day-care facilities for the very young, and it is generally agreed there are not enough crèches and kindergartens, with more and better trained staff in the ones already there. Plans are afoot to meet the still growing need, and another 3,500,000 places for pre-school children are supposed to be available by 1980.

Not all mothers, of course, dispose of their children so early. Some, like Elena Petushkova, rely on their mothers, the traditional *babushka*, the archetypal Russian grandmother. But even granny is in revolt these days. "Why should I?" said one.

"I prefer to work myself, then the pattern is uniform in the republics in standards of living or anything else. The government itself is pledged in the new constitution to eliminate the differences between urban and rural areas where millions of families still live in miserable poverty lines. Among certain ethnic minorities and religious groupings, equality may certainly be legal but little else, though things are changing fast among the young."

There is one other striking contrast in Soviet society, this one specifically between Russians and non-Russians. The falling birth rate among Rus-

sians compared to all the other races in the 14 non-Russian republics, seriously preoccupies the central government. The huge housebuilding programme has done nothing yet to reverse this trend, and the authorities are going to have to do a great deal more to improve the peoples' standard of living and above all the quality of their lives, if they are going to succeed in halting the decline. In a country which has such an intense love of children, I have always felt that the one-child families are a kind of unspoken protest, an unconscious political act of defiance.

Obviously, with poor birth control methods, three or four abortions are common among Soviet women, and many have far more. Nare I spoke to would admit to any feelings of guilt or psychological disturbance, or seemed to feel multiple abortions might be a health hazard. They seem to regard it as no more trouble than a trip to the hairdresser. Elena Petushkova told me she did not think abortion an ideal method of birth control and hoped a better one would be found, but as a biologist she was violently opposed to the pill. Only those with religious beliefs seem to have any qualms about abortion and in general a problem because of the children. But Soviet women are becoming more and more fiercely independent about their bodies. The husbands of the future will not help in the house. They are the target of much criticism at present.

Elizabeth Bowler

## In Calabria only the Mafia seems to be stable

The telephone rang while I was thinking rather inconsequently about Calabria, and by coincidence the call was from a Calabrian schoolmaster.

His reply to how things were going down there in the deep south was equally straightforward. "At least in mine," he said, "two more murders the day before yesterday, and the day before that a bomb in the home of the chairman of the local press club. We sent him a telegram. Apart from that, the usual poverty and misery and exploitation by the Mafia, which is why industry turns its back on us, public as well as private. There is still the will to do something, but there is nothing we can do unless the state shows its readiness to take a hand, and firmly at that."

Oh yes, as a sort of postscript he added that the regional assembly had just resigned. Something to do with whether the Communists should take a larger share of responsibility. No region now, as well as no state.

Calabria has its own peculiar sort of tension. It is more than a region which southern Italy is trying to bring to life. It is a region which fragments society rather than following the natural rules of molecular tension, which have a "binding" effect. The main cause of extreme rivalries and Reggio Calabria provided the one serious rebellion in postwar Italy when seven years ago it revolted against the decision to name it *Cassandro*. The regional capital, Crotone, and you find villages not only cut off from the cities but also from each other. They frown across the valley to their nearest neighbours with distrustful, resentful. Society shifts, sometimes explodes, without much development. Calabria is a seismic zone, as a Christian Democrat politician remarked,

and political life is as unstable as the ground itself.

A man must be something special to stand out against such an unnatural nature. He needs to be a great bandit, or a great saint like Francesco of Paola, or a great general or a great prelate. The only Calabrian who had something of all these elements in his own character or in the persons close to him was the eighteenth century Cardinal Ruffo.

Fabrizio Ruffo was an aristocrat with strong views on the proper ordering of society, which he saw based on devotion to the monarch and the Roman Catholic religion. When both were challenged by the forces of the French Revolution and the emperor Napoleon, he was forced to flee from Naples to Palermo, the aging cardinal returned to his native Calabria, raised an army which included bandits and cut-throats and which, as well as genuine devotion of crown and altar and traditional society. He took back the kingdom with a march which won Napoleon's admiration (and he actually led the coronation of the revolution's greatest product), Nelson, however, found him too liberal and his career ended in fatigue and, as a result, mutual accusations of bad faith.

History has done him little justice. Catholic historians are not anxious to promote his cause because he was an extreme reactionary. Lay historians see him as opposing the movements which were later to unite the country and of denuding the south of a vital generation of progressive-minded young people who might better have prepared the south for the *Risorgimento*.

I once set out to write his biography, which does not exist in English. Neither the setting nor the man take well to a historical approach. And so I

made his exploits into a novel. *Barbarians, bandits, revolutionaries, nuns, a struggle touched with a mark of decadence*—the last attempt to impose stability on Calabrian society—all sound more natural when presented as fiction. The fictitious narrator is a Calabrian schoolmaster. It is typical of Calabria that the moment I began to think about something to say, the only Calabrian schoolmaster whom I happen to know—and whom I first met long after I had finished this book—should telephone.

The historian Umberto Calabro has recently published a set of documents from the Naples state archive which contain a list of persons who fought with Ruffo and later needed help from the king. Ruffo himself annotates each case with his suggestion to the king of what should be done. In fact the king did nothing to help these faithful subjects. Yet, seven years later when the French returned in greater force to occupy the kingdom, many of these unworried subjects returned to fight for the old cause.

It may have been the hope for plunder; it may have been simple loyalty. The questions which Calabria poses now are more disturbing. What remains now to attract Calabrian loyalties? If discontent breaks its bounds, which way will it turn? Will work be found for young people to stop them drifting north, where they easily fall into student violence, or to stop them filling the ranks of Calabrian delinquency given that the Mafia at least offers an impression of efficiency? These are not problems confined to Calabria. They are just much more acute there. Ruffo would not have been able to supply the answer. But neither does anyone else.

Peter Nichols

## Food Report

A year ago the price of a small bar of chocolate would not have been enough to pay for a pound of potatoes. Today it would be enough for a pound of potatoes and a pound of carrots, with perhaps a small cabbage as well. While chocolate has become dearer vegetables are being sold at half the price and twice the quality of a year ago.

Their prices have fallen drastically after the 1976 drought, which caused shortages of good-quality produce that continued into the spring of 1977. They are certainly the cheapest food that can be bought at the moment. But they have fallen so much in a year during which the cost of living has continued to rise that they must now be literally the cheapest things that money can buy.

Six months ago, cabbages were being sold at more than 20p a pound to that the largest could cost as much as £1 each. Now supermarkets, not normally the source of the cheapest fresh produce, are selling medium-sized cabbages of excellent quality for as little as 5p each.

Potato prices have fallen so much that the Government has invoked its power to support the market with state aid. Early this year it seemed impossible to buy home-grown potatoes without finding that some on all of each purchase was badly marked by black spots inside the tubers. This autumn the quality is much higher.

The same has happened with carrots, so that last year's, sooty or tasteless roots with a texture that suggested they might

## The green, green vegetables of home

have been cut from trees have been replaced by much sweeter, more tender and cheaper substitutes in 1977.

Cabbages, potatoes and carrots are the cheapest vegetables but the prices of many others have dropped markedly as well. Sprouts cost between half and a third of the level of a year ago and cauliflowers are also cheaper. But the best thing about the green vegetables is that cheapness has coincided with high quality to a rare degree.

The sprouts, which are now being sold as splendidly compact and succulent despite the winter weather. They are a vast improvement on the ragged and expensive specimens that were available last winter. The climate this year has had all sorts of happy side-effects for lovers of fresh vegetables.

It has made Jerusalem artichokes larger so that they are much easier to peel and it has slightly raised the number of shops with useful vegetables which are easily grown but rarely sold, like celeriac and kohlrabi.

The effect of the bounty is that thanks to the climate this country has a vegetable "mountain" as severe as the "mountains" of milk powder and beef that threaten the orderly working of EEC food policy.

It means that farmers are receiving so little for their vegetables that some think it barely worth harvesting them. It means that food processors who signed contracts last year to buy the 1977 harvest must pay more than they would have to on the open market.

Farmers will find this winter that frozen food companies will be unwilling to accept large increases in contract prices for the 1978 harvest. For the slimmer, then, the benefits of the 1977 season should continue well into next year.

Hugh Clayton



# Johnnie Walker

The confident choice since 1820

## Pure contentment

pure coffee - decaffeinated for your health's sake

HAG

Group of HAG and HAG products available at food shops, etc. where





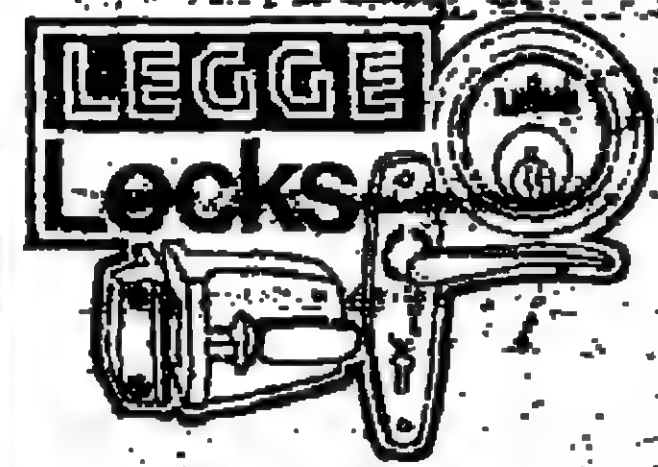




**§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days**

[illegible]





## BSC proposes to give profitable works bigger share of orders

By Paul Roulledge  
Labour Editor

The British Steel Corporation yesterday opened the bidding on cost economies with proposals to shift the diminished order book to profitable works and give "generous compensation" to workers facing redundancy, because of the worldwide steel recession.

These proposals were presented by Mr Bob Scholey, chief executive of the BSC, to the TUC steel industry committee in the second round of talks on the state industry's cash crisis. Union leaders rejected the first option, but promised to consider the second.

Mr Bill Sires, chairman of the steel committee and general secretary of the industry's largest union, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said British Steel's plan to give preferential orders to low-cost plants was unacceptable because it would hasten the demise of works rendered unprofitable by the present lack of orders.

But the executives of the steel industry are to consider regulations on "general compensation" offered by the BSC or 14,000 workers employed at the 12 so-called Beswick plants left open by the Government.

The BSC executive is to meet next week and on Monday Mr Scholey will face the collective wrath of the union's lay leadership in an unprecedented

exercise in industrial relations. He has accepted an invitation to explain BSC policies.

Steel union leaders were supposed to have brought to yesterday's talks their own measures to cut costs, but in view of the very short time that had elapsed since the first round of discussions last Friday, British Steel did not seriously expect substantial proposals.

The BSC is a joint venture of the National Union of Bank Employees (Nube) to extend its recruitment efforts beyond banking has been delivered by a TUC disputes committee award.

## Recruitment ruling favours bank union

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Reporter

A stimulus to a drive by the National Union of Bank Employees (Nube) to extend its recruitment efforts beyond banking has been delivered by a TUC disputes committee award.

It gives the way for a possible transfer of engagements to Nube by the staff union at the Guardian Royal Exchange, which has been the subject of recruitment ambitions by the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS).

The disputes committee has ruled that the orderly development of trade union organisations in banking and insurance would be assisted by an agreement that ASTMS should organise insurance workers and keep out of banking, while Nube should organise bank staff and stay out of insurance.

But the disputes committee said in the absence of a Nube/ASTMS agreement on a transfer of engagements, there would be no justification in standing in the way of a transfer of engagements to Nube by the Guardian Royal Exchange staff union.

If the transfer happens, the disputes committee has ruled that to protect ASTMS members the company should negotiate with Nube and ASTMS.

The Guardian Royal Exchange decided in May to transfer a transfer of engagements to Nube subject to satisfactory transfer terms. The TUC disputes committee investigation had to be involved because of ASTMS members in the firm.

Nube said in evidence to the committee that the ASTMS membership was "not of a technical or scientific nature" and that ASTMS had no negotiating rights within the company. The staff union has 5,700 members and negotiates terms and conditions of employment for 7,300 employees.

If the staff union transfers engagements to Nube it will be the first major acquisition by Nube into the insurance sector. At present it has insurance members, but in the Ecclesiastical Insurance Office and Sun Life of Canada.

There is enormous membership potential for TUC unions in insurance, Mr. L. M. M. Nube said, but he believes that making it clear that his organisation has no intention of attempting to move into companies where ASTMS already operates, "which we believe would be a waste of time."

He added: "There are large numbers in insurance without representation by a TUC union. It is a priority to get insurance, banking and the City generally into the mainstream of trade unionism."

## Improved management of dollar urged

From Frank Vogt  
Washington, Nov 10

Mr Robert Roosa, who is now widely viewed as a possible successor to Dr Arthur Burns as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, called today for improved management of the dollar's exchange rate.

He also sharply criticised the Carter Administration for "aggressive and abusive" attitudes toward business which were affecting general confidence and thus having an effect on weakening the dollar.

Mr Roosa, a partner in the Brown Brothers, Harriman investment bank and who has held top positions at the Treasury and the Fed, told the Senate Banking Committee that "money does not manage itself" and that the United States "must get over its fetish of 'benign neglect' with regard to the dollar."

He proposed that the best means of increasing international monetary stability would be through much closer cooperation between the finance ministers and the central banks of the United States, Japan and West Germany, with the aim of establishing target zones for the related exchange rates of the dollar, the yen and the Deutsche mark.

Mr Roosa stressed that to stabilise the dollar there was no alternative to deriving means of strengthening the economy to promote more business investment. To achieve this it was vital that there should be a deeper understanding and greater confidence between business and government.

Mr Roosa, who may have reduced his chances of becoming the next head of the Fed by directly criticising President Carter's recent complaints about the greed of the nation's oil companies, was reticent in criticising the Fed.

He did note, however, that he saw the new Fed money growth targets as "mere pretensions" and that in reality the Fed could not actually slow the growth of M2 and M3 without also slowing the growth of M1.

Wall St jumps 14 points

Heavy dealing on Wall Street yesterday saw nearly 32 million shares traded. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped by 14.12 points to close at 832.55.

Analysts said the market felt the Fed had finished its recent credit tightening and that interest rates were levelling off.

Mr Matthews supports Fleet Street interests with magazine group

## Trafalgar buys Morgan-Grampian

By Desmond Quigley

Mr Victor Matthews, chairman of Beaverbrook Newspapers, is expanding Trafalgar House's publishing business with an agreed £20.5m takeover bid for magazine publishers Morgan-Grampian.

Trafalgar is offering 200p a share cash—a level which Morgan-Grampian's shares have never reached and which compares with a range of between 40p and 170p over the past 22 months. The announcement was made after hours yesterday, but earlier Morgan's share price had gained 10p to 150p.

Directors of Morgan and Beaverbrook, principal shareholders representing 51 per cent of the issued shares have irrevocably agreed to accept the offer.

The offer is conditional on no references to the Molechips being assigned by an agency making pre-tax profits in the

year to the end of next March of at least £3.5m compared with £2.7m last year.

Trafalgar's latest foray into publishing is initially costing it more than the £14m it paid to acquire Beaverbrook Newspapers, publishers of the *Daily Express*, *Sunday Express* and *London Evening Standard*.

All but four of the 41 magazines published by Morgan are in the business and technical field, they include *The Engineer*, *Chemical Age*, *Accountants Weekly*, *Process Engineering* and *Estates Times*. Eight are published in the United States. Among the more popular publications are *Over 21*, *Record Mirror*, and *Weight Watchers*.

Mr Matthews, deputy chairman and managing director of Trafalgar House as well as chairman of Beaverbrook, said he might be intended that Morgan should expand its well-

founded base in business publications and use that base to diversify into the more popular sector of the market.

He particularly singled out women's magazines, fashion and sport—areas in which IPC Magazines, part of Reed International, is the market leader. He believed that Morgan's solid earnings base would provide support for Beaverbrook as well as injecting ideas into Trafalgar's publishing division.

He said: "What was lacking at Beaverbrook was that it was newspapers only and had nothing else to support it."

With Beaverbrook's publications occupying the more popular sector of the newspaper market, Mr Matthews considered that there was scope for cross-fertilisation between newspaper personnel and Morgan's new drive to increase Morgan's popular publications.

Morgan was the subject of

an abortive takeover bid early last year, when Communico-Europe, a private Dutch company, made an offer of 70p a share.

The chief shareholders in Communico, holding about two-thirds of the equity were three companies, one of which was News International, the vehicle of Mr Rupert Murdoch, and publisher of *The Sun*.

Mr Matthews did not get Morgan's backing for the bid without a fight. Mr Graham Sheraton, Morgan's chairman and chief executive, confirmed last night that there had been several approaches during the week and at least one serious offer, although Mr Murdoch did not renew his interest.

He commented that Trafalgar's backing would provide Morgan with the sufficient muscle for expansion. The six non-executive directors on Morgan's board will resign.

## Shell chief airs plan to oil wheels of small firms

Mr Michael Pocock, head of the Royal Dutch/Shell group, one of the world's largest companies, told other big corporations yesterday that if they believed small companies were a necessary part of the economy they would have to pay more than lip service to the idea.

It could mean help with finance, sites, contracts and even the suggestion of ideas for development.

Mr Pocock, who was delivering the Ashridge Lecture at the Royal Aeronautical Society said that first the big corporations should pay the bills on time. The small business could not afford to wait for cash.

"All of us are schooled in the need to manage cash, but we must resist the temptation to use our bargaining power to the point where it starves the resources of the small business unfairly," he said.

He suggested a four-point programme to help small companies. Big corporations should establish a positive recruitment policy which recognises the value of the small enterprise to the total economic system and resolve to support this in action.

This policy should be reflected in purchasing and contracting although it might involve some additional work and supervision and some resentment from the larger suppliers and contractors.

Small enterprises could also be helped with sites, space and equipment that might be surplus to the needs of larger groups. There was also scope for even more positive help by providing credit or financial pump-priming while the small company was establishing itself. Specialists could be assigned to help with accounting and costing.

"Most of us know of products which are of commercial interest, but not worth developing in a large company. Why not encourage smaller people to develop these products against a purchase order for their early production?"

Why not encourage a retiring employee to take an idea with him, develop it, bring people for the purpose, and sell us back the product for market development? In fact, why not put an entrepreneurial executive to work for such opportunities right now?

A spokesman for Shell said last night that the company was investigating the possibilities of implementing Mr Pocock's ideas.

Roger Vielvoye

## Accounting indemnity cover difficulties

By Nicholas Hirst

Publication of the Cross report is focusing attention on the increasing cost and difficulty of the accounting profession having to obtain adequate indemnity insurance against claims of negligence.

Although the problem is not acute, the forming of a fund on the lines suggested by Lord Cross in his report on the three main United Kingdom audit disciplinary procedures will cause increasing worries.

Premium rates have been rising quickly for international firms in the past couple of years, and further increases will come as the industry moves to limit liability for errors.

But many accountants would object to any tinkering with the unlimited liability of partnership, and it is difficult to see the Department of Trade agreeing to any reform even as part of a holistic revision of Company law as applied to auditors.

With Cross having reported that talks between the profession and Mr Dell, the Minister of Trade, on regulation will resume, but it is impossible to say what the outcome might be.

But any solution along the lines of a tribunal which would act as cases of professional competence is decided on, whether such a tribunal is appointed by Government or constituency, or by the evidence of negligence claims, which is already growing, will increase further.

Pear Marwick, Mitchell con-

firmed that premiums had been increasing, but there were no real problems in finding cover.

Touche Ross said it was becoming more difficult to get the amount of cover required, and that premiums had been going up regardless of their own claims experience.

Conrad Lybrand also confirmed that cover was more difficult to obtain for certain amounts, and that premiums were rising sharply.

For small and medium-sized United Kingdom firms, the difficulties are more intense. The English Institute of Chartered Accountants runs a scheme, through insurance brokers, C. E. Bowring, which was set up in 1971. Premiums there are not escalating, Bowring says.

Policies are put out to Lloyd's and the composite indemnity market, and although a major disaster in another part of the professional indemnity market, such as a claim against an engineering consultancy could have an effect, its repercussions would be more limited than on the international firms.

Here Minet is the leading broker. They explain that after being fairly stable in the early part of the decade, premium rates grew sharply in 1975 and 1976.

Chalmers increased both in frequency and size and underwriters have been forced to increase rates and increase the proportion of risk met by the profession itself.

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## Rome bank chief held in Sindona inquiry

From John Earle  
Rome, Nov 10

Signor Mario Barone, joint managing director of Banca di Roma, was arrested in Milan yesterday during a magistrate's investigation into the affairs of Signor Michele Sindona, the financier, who is described in the Italian press as being a close associate of Signor Andreotti, the Prime Minister.

The Bank of Rome, one of the three big banks of the state-owned IRI group, became involved in a scandal in 1974, when it was alleged to have helped Sindona in his efforts to save the fall of his empire in 1974.

It took over management of Banca Privata Italiana after its failure in November 1974, and also received a controlling share in the international property company, Società Generale Immobiliare, which is still in doubt.

Signor Barone was questioned for questioning yesterday. Though no details of his arrest have been given officially, the Italian press has written that the magistrate is investigating 500 prominent politicians and businessmen who allegedly sent funds to Switzerland through Signor Sindona's banks, Banca Privata Italiana and Banca Finanziaria di Milano.

According to some reports these clients were refunded in full shortly before the collapse of Banca Privata Italiana, in contrast to ordinary account-holders.

Signor Barone 57, is described in the press as being a friend of Signor Sindona of many years standing.

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## July economic summit in Bonn expected

By David Blake

An economic summit meeting of the seven largest industrial nations in Bonn next July seems to be emerging as a strong probability. Hopes by the Japanese that they would be asked to host the meeting, which would be the fourth such session of its kind, have run up against a problem.

The other, and possibly more important, argument for postponing the meeting to July involves the vexed question of representation of the European Community. The five EEC member states, the present chairmen of the summit, are expected to force at least a partial role for the EEC Commission at the London summit, in the face of intense opposition from the French.

France takes over the chair of the EEC Council of Ministers in January next year, and will occupy the seat for six months. During the French chairmanship it might be difficult to get the French to accept any separate EEC representation by the Commission. The Germans, on the other hand, may well be more amenable to a special EEC seat at the summit table when they take over at the end of June.

Although past summit meetings have a very dim record of achievement, most of the officials who have been responsible for monitoring the efforts of the London summit seem to accept that another summit is inevitable at some time, because of the fact that world leaders feel they must operate on a more effective if they know each other on a personal basis. There was even some talk of holding a meeting in Canada this year, though that does not seem to have been taken seriously by any responsible officials or government.

The feeling a few months ago was that the meeting would be held in February, before the French elections. However, that date seems to have slipped to the summer of next year, for a number of reasons.

The economic situation in the first half of 1978 is likely to be pretty dismal in most of the industrial countries, and the summer of next year, for a number of reasons.

These countries are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. Since one of the purposes of the summit meetings has been to enhance the credibility of world leaders, it could be embarrassing for

them to gather at a time when unemployment is rising throughout the world.

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## Employment Protection Act 'disincentive to enterprise'

many, as Mr Mordisley suggests. I assume that this is less of the rewards of success are taken in tax there, so that people are more inclined to risk loss. In this country business is becoming a little more like a lottery. If I lose, heads the Government will pay me. But, if I win, it is an added disincentive to enterprise and the creation of new employment.

Yours faithfully,  
**COLIN DAUBIS,**  
Chairman, Legislation Committee,  
Smaller Businesses Association,  
Europe House,  
World Trade Centre,  
London E1 9AA.

## Worker shares: the right climate

with the preferential dividend, an amount greater than the dividend paid on the ordinary shares of the company. Fifthly, no capital gains or income tax should be chargeable at the time of issue of worker shares.

Sixthly, capital gains tax would arise, only (at worst) upon "conversion" of the worker share into an ordinary share on leaving, retirement or death or (at best) upon subsequent sale. Seventhly, a second condition would apply, where the shares had not been held for the full qualifying period.

In this way effort and thrift would be encouraged and nothing, I submit, could be farther from "the welfare state mentality." The clear intention is to move away from that approach, to encourage

workers to believe in what they are doing and to feel quite apart from their ordinary salaries and pensions they have every chance to earn an additional bonus by way of a capital profit from the enterprise of which they form an integral and important part.

Yours faithfully,  
**DAVID A. CARUTH,**  
Cowdrays, Essex.

**Gross overtaxing of the family**

care for the three children,  
actually pays more tax than

does a childless couple in which each earns £5,000 per annum, although the "contribution to the economy" in value of input is the same in each case. Further, the family will make a substantial contribution in the future, on which the childless couple will in due course rely.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID G. LINDSAY,  
8 Swanston Field,  
Whitechurch-on-Thames,  
Oxfordshire, RG8 7HP.  
November 8.

# Academic 'outsiders' in the works drawing office

From Mr S. G. Bauer

Sir, The correspondence on the education and training of designers has been a fascinating one and many aspects of the subject have been illuminated by your correspondence. But, so far, I have read nothing on the subject of the environment in which the designer in industry carries out his work.

In the great majority of works, where the bulk of the consumer and industrial durable goods are made, design comes from a company's drawing office. Now, it is important to realize that new product design is, in most cases, only a small part of the work of a drawing office and frequently quite a rare event.

Usually a drawing office struggled to keep up with the day-to-day demands of the factory: modifications, concessions for faults in manufacture, changes for changed customer requirements, customer queries, cost saving exercises and so forth.

In all these activities it is vital that the staff of the office are thoroughly familiar with all the factory's components, past and present, and may have to deal with several tens of thousands; this familiarity must also extend to all work systems such as part numbering, spare, production control and inspection.

The designer is always favours people who have come up in the works through apprenticeship and a long slow climb to responsibility. Very likely the manager in charge will have achieved his position

by much hard work along the same route.

It does not really take much imagination to visualize the difficulties of an "outsider" with good academic training in coming into such a works drawing office. His boss and others around him will tell him to forget what he has been taught and to get down and learn his trade. Behind his back the drawing office manager will probably say "we shall soon knock all this academic stuff out of him and make him" into a useful draughtsman". Most of these managers will also feel some secret anxiety for their own jobs if they give a chance to a newcomer with better qualifications than their own.

The tradition of academically qualified engineers working on the drawing board on creative work does not exist in its run-of-the-mill "low technology" factories who turn out the bulk of products of poorly competitive design. It has been commonplace in Germany for half a century that the cumulative benefit is beginning to show.

We now have to face the question: Is there time to try and remedy the situation arising from the bottom up, as most of your correspondents seem to imply, or should we be radical and introduce highly qualified engineers into top management first and let design follow from the top down, academically qualified men down the line of command?

Yours faithfully,  
S. G. BAUER,  
Willowhill,  
Kilton, Derby, DE6 5PN.

## Funded pension schemes

From Mr Michael Pilch

Sir, In the letter that you published from Mr Raymond Nottingham (Business, November 4) he quoted a number of statistics from our booklet *Pension Funds and the Economy*. Unfortunately, in using selective statistics to support his case, he failed to give the other side of the story. Roger Kitchin and I set out the picture in our booklet both for and against funded pension schemes, but for reasons of his own, Mr Nottingham chose to ignore the former.

First, there is the all-important question of security for employees. Secondly, if the cost of pension is not funded in advance, a misleading picture is created of the profitability of the enterprise and later generations are forced to pay the price. Ironically, the PFA Office, quoted by Nottingham as paying 23 per cent of salary for pensions on top of the 7 per cent paid by the staff, is a case in point. The comparatively high contributions now required reflect the inadequate

of provisions made in earlier years for pensioners not fully funded.

The other arguments in favour of funding are mainly economic ones. Mr Nottingham might care to ask himself how the economy becomes a burden if negative rates of return persist for a long period.

The conclusion reached by our booklet is that Mr Nottingham is that funded pension schemes contribute to net savings, add to the security of employees and help to stabilize the economy. Unless these benefits are cancelled out by government intervention pension funds are, on balance, a commendable device. They increase the flow of money available for capital investment in the most productive and profitable enterprises and thereby encourage economic growth.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL PILCH,  
Policy Director,  
Noble Lowndes Division,  
Lawrence & Sons, the Concorde Group,  
Croydon CR9 3BS.

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### Public Notices

#### The "Shell" Transport and Trading Company Limited

Shareholders in "Shell" are invited to attend and discuss on Shell Group activities. Tuesday, 23rd November, 1977. The Brighton Centre, Brighton. Time: 2.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. "Film" Officers: North Sea talk. This is the first of a possible series of informal shareholders' meetings that may turn up. It will be held at 2.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. For tickets please telephone 01-822 5331, or write to: The "Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Ltd., Shell Centre London, SE1 7HA, stating time and address.

#### St John's School, Leatherhead

Notice is hereby given that the NINTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNORS will be held at the school on Wednesday, 23rd November, 1977, at 8.00 p.m. for the purpose of electing a new Governor. The Chairman of the Governors' Council and the Finance Officer will be present. Your vote is invited. Yours faithfully, M. J. M. ALFORD, Secretary.

#### Coaching Establishments

No. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 5



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Real growth from a healthy Boots

Like Marks & Spencer, which turned in an 11 per cent volume gain on non food items in its first half, Boots has been able to achieve real growth in United Kingdom retailing of around 2½ per cent in the six months to end September. This alone should be enough to overcome the market's nervous initial response to yesterday's figures, particularly as profits are 26.4 per cent ahead at £47.6m despite "intense price competition" in retailing which has tended to keep the pressure on gross margins.

Retailing aside, Boots' expanding industrial pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals business is clearly going well, though recent acquisitions in the United States, Germany and Canada are not included at this stage. What is clear too is that Boots is presenting a conservative picture at this stage—retailing has been taken at \$1.65, for example.

So there is no reason for the market to lower its expectations for the year. Profits could well be around £120m, for earnings of around 16p, and while a yield of under 1 per cent and a p/e ratio of 14 at 224p underlines the premium status there is no reason to think that it is not justified on a year view of likely consumer spending trends and the benefits arising from store modernization which are now being pushed through.

V. H. Smith

### A Jubilee bonus

The Silver Jubilee and a poor summer washed volume at W. H. Smith up by 5.7 per cent in magazines and 2.1 per cent in periodicals. Combined with a strong wholesaling performance due to higher cover prices and reasonable wage costs, the washed pretax profits for the eight months of October 1 up by 43 per cent to £4.6m.

Stripping out profits on property sales leaves underlying growth of 35 per cent, which compares well with other retail suits recently. Christmas prospects look good; certainly the first marginal effects of handouts and higher wages would suggest the chain will benefit more than last year when pre-Budget buying put the emphasis on consumer durables.

On the longer view, floorspace has creased modestly by 5 per cent this year it should be up to 7 per cent next year. There is a substantial operational gearing effect from these increases as they allow rights to augment its traditional lines with higher margin items.

This year £19.5m pretax profits are likely to be expected. But the shares, up 25p at 5p yesterday helped by market approval of the splitting, are in line with the sector a prospective p/e ratio of 15, while a

yield of 2 per cent and recent high performance has discounted most of these strengths and profit-taking looks timely. Suggest that the excitement is over for the moment.



Ultramar, whose chairman is Mr Campbell Nelson (above), has been one of those companies whose share price has lived more on expectation than reality. It has paid no dividend and has geared itself highly to finance its Indonesian natural gas development. But at last it is starting to deliver the goods. In August it began first shipments of LNG to Japan. Not only has production thus begun earlier than scheduled, but it has gone unusually smoothly, the plant has turned out to be capable of producing at 120 per cent of anticipated output and the talk now is of putting in extra productive capacity next year. Japanese sales are, in any case, due to double early next year, by which time Indonesia will be contributing a big slice of total profit, although probably less than half.

In the meantime the impact is clear enough in the nine-month figures. Pre-tax profits are more than doubled at £15.4m, within which the effect of the LNG coming on stream is third-quarter profits of £7.5m against £2.4m last year. At the same time Ultramar is well over the hump of its spending programme, capital investment totalling only £10.5m against £25.7m in the first nine months of last year. There is, admittedly, some North Sea development to fund, but in the context of Ultramar's soaring cash flow—£18.5m at the nine-month stage—it should pose no problems.

One catch is that while the Quebec refinery is trading well, the weakness of the Canadian dollar has meant a £2.1m exchange loss compared to a £7.7m profit last year. More fundamentally the question is whether the shares, 22p yesterday, will run out of excitement now the LNG is coming through, although the prospective p/e ratio of less than 10 is undemanding and the asset backing strong.

The controversy about the use of North Sea oil profits has become too political.

There are legitimate political points, but on examination they resolve themselves into familiar arguments about the appropriate balance between the public and private sectors, between tax cuts and expenditure increases as methods of sharing the Government's slice of the North Sea revenues.

It is right that these questions are aired among politicians, but in my view only those politicians who have held or sat near to the office of Chief Secretary to the Treasury have a practical understanding of the continued painful nature of the choices: choices between more for old age pensioners, and less taxes for the average working man; between more nursing help in crowded hospitals and the introduction of a reduced rate band of income tax for young workers; between more rolling stock for suburban commuters' railway lines, and a lower rate of value-added tax.

North Sea oil will ease these choices a little, but to the economist there are more fundamental questions raised by the North Sea. I will list the main questions as I perceive them, and concentrate on the discussion of two of them.

The problems most discussed in the last few months have been those of the balance of payments, the exchange rate, monetary policy and the "competitiveness" of manufacturing industry. Two stereotype views have been developed.

On the one hand, there are those who see the North Sea as a "virtuous circle" process as the Japanese or West German economies going in the 1950s. Those countries developed an external balance of payments surplus because of increased domestic demand and good performance from a few export trades—our industrial push would be given by the North Sea.

Investment

But irrespective of where the push comes from, the same cumulative process works: a buoyant exchange rate contained moderation in wage demands (at least in the short term), and the experience of rising real wages and falling prices of imported foodstuffs; low interest rates, financial confidence, and good export performance; and accelerated investment in manufacturing trades; and finally, the benefits of increasing productivity and self-sustaining technical progress bring industrial dominance and highly paid employment, an advanced export trade.

On this stereotype, we should welcome the North Sea's recent boost to the sterling exchange rate, and allow the combination of our balance of payments surplus and tight monetary policy to push up the price of sterling, temper inflation, and give a further impulse to real wage increases in this critical year

North Sea oil and the economy—3

## A help, but not the whole answer to our problems

Michael Posner, right, contributes the final article in

a series by leading economists on the implications for the United Kingdom of the North Sea oil revenues



for counter-inflationary progress.

The other stereotype view holds that an appreciating exchange rate of this sort will rapidly whittle away the balance of payments surplus, as manufacturing imports flood into a buoyant consumer market against weak price competition from British manufacturers.

The rate of increase in labour costs per unit of output in the manufacturing trades would not be much moderated when measured in sterling, compared with what would otherwise have taken place; and the risk is that these costs would rise sharply when measured in Deutschmarks, because the exchange rate would be appreciating.

Levels of output and employment in the non-North Sea sector of the British economy would then be lower than they would otherwise have been, real income per head in the United Kingdom as a whole will not have been much changed by the North Sea, and we would all on average be able to enjoy much the same level of consumption for rather less work.

Hardly a very exciting prospect for a country in which industrial production is now barely above the level of 1970.

This issue has already been explored in the columns of *The Times*, and I would only add that to me the second stereotype view is more plausible, and that therefore I join those who lean towards keeping the exchange rate down in the next year or two, and regret its recent rise.

Similar arguments can be advanced in the second main area of controversy, energy, though it arises apparently from a quite different standpoint. This is the question of the "rate of depletion" which we must find a great deal of North Sea oil recently, this had been seen as an issue purely in energy economics, to be resolved according to one's view about the future of the

world oil price in real terms, deriving in turn from one's assessment of the future balance of supply and demand of energy.

If you expect world energy prices to go up around 5 per cent a year until the end of the century (trebling between now and the year 2000), and you believe also that the future should be discounted, when compared to the present, at a rate of about 4 per cent a year (the return on capital in real terms has fallen even below that level in the past few years); then it is smart to hang on to our oil rather than deplete our reserves very rapidly during the early 1980s.

### Committed

And such slower depletion would diminish the upward pressure on sterling.

If, on the other hand, you believe that real oil prices will rise less rapidly, or believe that the rate of time discount to apply is markedly more than 5 per cent per year, then we might as well get the benefits from the North Sea as quickly as possible, and all the problems of how to use that benefit must be faced now.

In the context of most of the relevant depletion decisions for the next few years are irrevocably committed, and our freedom of action such as it is refers more to the period from 1985 onwards.

I would be inclined myself to deplete slower in that period, rather than faster, but those economists who are more sceptical than I am about future energy crises will take a different line. In any case, the horizon for my present anxieties about the British economy is set, I will confess, well before the mid-1980s, and therefore I do not find a great deal of macro-economic interest in the depletion problem at the moment.

I prefer to stress a third set of issues, on which my views

have been moderated recently, in one and the same direction, as a result of discussion with normally such divergent influences as Professor Lord Kahn and Mr. Sean Britten.

This concerns the question of the target balance of payments surplus on current account over the next seven years. I had previously thought that common sense dictated that we should keep that surplus as low as was consistent with paying off the long-term obligations incurred by the United Kingdom public sector, mostly in foreign currency, during the balance of payments struggles of the period 1967-76.

This, it seemed to me, need involve a current account surplus of no more than £2,000m per year over the period, even allowing for a little rebuilding of foreign exchange "free reserves" as well. All the rest of the North Sea induced surplus (perhaps an additional amount of as much as £3,000m or £4,000m per year over the whole period) could be "blown" as I saw it, in expansion of employment and output in the home economy in the traditional way.

If we could afford an extra £4,000m of imports, this means that we could afford an extra £15,000m of home output, which would virtually wipe out the losses from the severe slump of the mid-1970s.

This expansionist view is of course supported by the argument that all OECD countries taken together should be running a deficit, as the counterpart of the Opec surplus—and the United Kingdom should not make this effort in difficult circumstances by running on its own a large surplus.

Alas, I now think that this optimistic view is not quite correct. This is not just because I am concerned (as an ordinary citizen, not as a monetarist in any sense) about the possible stimulus to wage inflation that would be given by any large fiscal or monetary relaxation

in the next few months; nor is it because I see some mystic beauty in the reinvestment of the North Sea assets in some other foreign security.

It is because I am worried about the addition effects, and the subsequent withdrawal effects, as we first take on and then disengage with the North Sea bonanza.

I think this point is distinct from the specifically exchange rate and competitiveness concerns with which I commenced this discussion. It is based on the simple notion (subject to attack from those who are not technical economists—that is why I expose my flank in so open a manner) that we British are restrictionist in spirit, far readier to accustom ourselves to higher levels of consumption than to higher levels of production opportunities.

In technical language, I am asserting that the marginal propensity to import may turn out to be pretty high, not because "the demand elasticities are low" but because "the supply elasticities are low": a low level of the exchange rate is more likely to be dissipated in price increases if our factories, public or private, are slow to react.

Under these circumstances, I believe that the North Sea revenues must initially be used to rebuild our reserves, to reduce our position as a net debtor, so as to put us in the position to allow with confidence the expansion of the economy which the internal obstacles to expansion are removed.

In formal terms, I suggest that the North Sea provides one of the necessary conditions for a substantial step forward for the British economy, but is not in itself a sufficient condition.

### Extra growth

Those to whom this conclusion is uncongenial can reflect, as I have done, on the following simple proposition. At best, the North Sea will bring us in something like 4 per cent of the gdp, every year for upwards of a decade. This is jolly nice, but it is so more or less equivalent to one year's extra growth in output.

If, because of its special aid to the balance of payments, it can be used skilfully to create the conditions by which several extra years' growth in output could be achieved, or even, at a lower and more realistic level of expectation, just as it is used to return to the degree of capacity utilization common in the 1960s, that would be a splendid result. But if it were allowed to inhibit such a desirable outcome, then that extra slice of 4 per cent could be easily lost elsewhere.

My conclusion therefore is that the North Sea might make it easier to solve some of our problems, but does not in itself represent such a solution.

The author is Reader in Economics at the University of Cambridge and Fellow of Pembroke College, Cambridge.

## Inco and the nickel crisis

Co's preliminary prospects for its latest oil raising operation reads rather like the rip for a tragedy. Not only has its total minance of the nickel market collapsed, but its balance sheet has been savaged, but it is also been downgraded by Moody's from A to A.

NICKEL			
	Nickel Demand (millions of pounds)	Inco's Sales as a Percentage of Demand	Inco's Sales as a Percentage of Demand
10	290	256	88%
20	520	352	68%
30	1,060	519	49%
40	1,380	548	40%
50	980	351	36%
60	1,160	410	35%
7 (e)	1,160	348	30%
7 estimate			

Existing and planned production and price may not be enough, for the prospectus states that "further action may be required". The scale of the problems confronting not just Inco but also the rest of industry can be judged by the fact that by as far back as May Inco raised a net \$9m through a preferred share issue. So, details have not been released of the rest preferred issue, but judging by the up's prognosis of its own situation and that confronting the industry \$100m would seem to be the starting point.

By the end of September total borrowings had risen to \$136m from \$122.5m at the beginning of the year and stood at 76 per cent of shareholders' funds as increased by the preferred share issue in May.

The table shows just how severely Inco's dominance of the industry has been eroded, although it is still by far the largest non-communist producer. By implication the picture was even bleaker in the first half because the company talks of its market share having "declined sharply", although it believes that it will have 30 per cent over the full year.

Market conditions are such that by the end of September, Inco's inventory had reached 308 million pounds of finished nickel, compared with a "normal" level of 100 million pounds. The inventory is almost the same size as the total group output of 314 million pounds in the first nine months of the year and dwarfs the group's sales of 233 million.

Meanwhile Inco has stopped posting its prices publicly, but admits that nickel prices remain weak and under pressure and that the average net prices now being realized are lower than the \$2.15 a pound it received in the third quarter.

The industry clearly faces a long haul, as I suggested recently, and to add to all its other problems, Inco is going to have to carry the Guatemala project which will cost it dearly.

A year in the life of the National Research Development Corporation tends to be measured by those outside it in terms of financial performance.

The corporation's 1976-77 record in this respect, as Lord Schon, the chairman, reported last week, was good.

The NRDC's main earners of licence revenue, the annual report indicated, continued to include the Corporation's electronics, a product of Oxford University and the Medical Research Council.

Among the corporation's "special projects", continued development of hovercraft were again reported.

But, behind the well-known successes—like Cephalopod and hovercraft—also the corporation's real work is made up of a wide range of less spectacular "development" and exploitation projects. Some of these may prove to be the Corporation's most successful of tomorrow.

One hundred new development projects were set up by the NRDC during 1976-77, ranging from building boards to aircraft wings. These include:

1—A project to produce building boards from waste plastics in which the National Freight Corporation had a public interest. One interest in reprocessing film material

for recycling as bulk products; the other in developing products made by fusing mixed granulated plastics by direct heating.

These came together in a project to make boards built up from a central layer of relatively brittle mixed material, clad and reinforced by the thermoplastic material derived from film.

A new company, Reclaim International, was formed to develop the process; the NRDC has provided additional development finance.

2—An ingenious electronic "analogue" has been developed by Network Analysis Ltd with NRDC support to simulate the fluid flow in a water or gas pipeline network.

The instrument can also analyse the flow of ventilation air in mines; the company has supplied a large system for this purpose to the United States Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration.

3—Diagnosis of certain forms of heart disease requires the measurement of the internal structure and functioning of the heart. Normally, a special catheter is inserted in a

vein or artery and is advanced through the body to reach the heart and obtain the needed information.

An alternative technique is that of ultrasonic echo cardiography, which has the advantage that the measurements are made from outside the body.

Cambridge Instrument Company is now developing, with NRDC support, a new echocardiograph with an improved display and data recording system.

4—For the planning and control of large projects involving thousands of interrelated activities, Freeman, Fox & Partners are developing an advanced version of a network planning system (pioneered in the 1950s on the Polaris nuclear programme with the Program Evaluation and Review Technique, or PERT).

The new system will be able to run on computers of various types; and it will be suitable for financial modelling as well as for project planning and control.

5—Slackair Radionics' novel 21-screen television receiver is being further developed with NRDC support. Here the aim is to enable new and cheaper versions of the "pocket" receiver to be manufactured.

NRDC's commitment is planned to continue over several years—provided that

appropriate design targets are met and that the market expands as predicted. As with other projects, the NRDC support is planned to continue beyond development and into the production phase.

6—Following experiments at the University of Nottingham, a water-tight heating system, which uses a long slot near the floor instead of the conventional grilles, has been installed and is being evaluated in a church near Watford.

This technique provides a "Coanda" effect which causes the carpet of heated air to cling to the floor instead of rising towards the ceiling. The corporation is seeking licensees for the system.

7—In an unusual type of venture, aerodynamics work at Cranfield Institute of Technology, is being supported. Small-scale "free" wind tunnels of aircraft can reduce drag and may give other benefits; wind-tunnel and in-flight testing is continuing.

8—The demand for toughened glass for office windows and patio doors is expected to increase. Normal window glass is

toughened by heating and air circulating, setting up stresses in the glass which increase its strength.

A novel design of horizontal glass-toughening furnace is being implemented by T. N. Butler (Weybridge). Horizontal types (where the glass is supported horizontally and not hung vertically) have advantages, and the Butler design should be much smaller and cheaper than existing horizontal furnaces.

These are typical of the corporation's current projects, many of which are conducted on a joint-venture basis with industry.

For the future, the NRDC plans to improve its ability to attract new business with the appointment of three new board members—Mr. Steven Dooland, Mr. John Scholes and Mr. David Thompson. He is responsible for marketing, engineering and finance respectively.

Kenneth Owen  
Technology Correspondent

## Business Diary: Hodgson's choice • A Raw deal?

for ICI the boardroom was that has characterized changes in some other, if more arrisive, organizations. Maurice Hodgson, who is to succeed Sir Rowland Wright as chairman, is not an outsider, so does not break with precedent. He is also, at the oldest and the longest of the three deputy chairmen—a fourth gap-bridge deputy, Stanley Lyon, retired in March.

Hodgson, a Yorkshireman, read chemistry at Oxford and joined ICI 35 years ago. His responsibilities as a director have included chairmanship of the Americas territorial and the textiles policy groups and the capital programme committee.

Fall out from the Slater-Walker affair continues to drift into the most unexpected places. A hostile review of Charles Raw's book Slater, Walker—an investigation of a financial phenomenon in a recent edition of the *Hampstead and District Express* brought forth a letter in reply from Raw, which the paper declined to publish in full.

The review was by Malcolm Horsmann, a former Slater lieutenant. He contributes regularly to the paper on a freelance basis.

Raw, understandably enough, felt that Horsmann was not the most independent of commentators on a book that attacked Slater, Walker. Moreover, the review said that Charles Raw had sought employment with Slater, Walker in 1970. Why has Jim Slater himself

advantage in this job, which involves a lot of travelling. Luckily a recent operation seems to have put things right. He is as active in leisure as in business, enjoying horse-racing, fishing and swimming.

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statement is not true, though he is aware that some unknown person has been spreading the rumour.

The nearest that it is to the truth, according to Raw, is that he was once invited to lunch at Slater, Walker some time after a former friend of his married Simon Pendock, a former Slater, Walker, director—yes, this story has romance, too.

The possibility of employment featured largely in the discussions, but in no way, he claims, did he ask for, or even consider, a job with the group.

Will he sue? Probably not—after all the litigation over the Slater book he seems to have had enough of lawyers' offices. But since Raw has sworn off affidavits the effect that the story is not true, he is understandably annoyed that it is still being put about.

The Association of British Travel Agents, 27, Strand, London (described by Lord Moran, British Ambassador to Portugal, as "probably the biggest contingent of his fellow countrymen to come there since Wellington's Army") started moving home towards yesterday with a warning that this conference may be the last of its type.

In her closing address Margo Hook, ABTA's new president,

said she wanted to see a working party set-up to consider the whole convention concept.

The trouble is that out of the 1,900-plus people there this year, fewer than 300 represent retail travel agents. Furthermore, those travel agents who did come seemed apathetic about the various threats to their future discussed from the platform.

Without the travel agents the frequently lavish displays at the associated trade fair by airlines, shipping companies, car hire firms and the national tourist boards resembled musicians who, having brought their harps to the party, were not asked to play.

In a special behind-the-scenes meeting of its national council ABTA has now decided to strengthen its retailer representation and Mrs Hook, called the "smiling gress", hopes that steps will be taken to woo back the retailers to next year's conference. But one of her ideas is for smaller, more intimate sessions to encourage more audience participation.

Whatever the format, though, the venue for the 1978 ABTA conference has been decided. It is to be at the new Costa del Sol convention centre near Torremolinos, in Spain.

This year everyone is full of praise for the Portuguese hosts,

who even though they had a tendency to switch venues for the main social events at the last moment, have succeeded in charming even the hard-bitten British travel trade.

A sad little tale is related in the current edition of *Civil Engineering*, a magazine for an industry which has had little to smile about in recent years. It seems that a team of British mountaineers, lacking the "uncovered Torres Eger, in Patagonia, took with them some packing coated with a substance called Decadex, produced by Liquid Plastics, of Preston. The coating was applied, so that the packaging could be dismantled on site and reassembled in the form of a hut which would withstand the worst of weather.

And it did, surviving 80 mph gales and torrential rains and, besides, being the place for journey to Buenos Aires, 300 miles of dirt track, travel in an old truck and a mule trek into the foothills. The hut remains as dry as a bone, the magazine reports, and Liquid Plastics were looking forward to examining the coating for wear.

Sadly, it was not to be. A gang of Patagonian hordes got to it before them and set fire to the whole thing, burning it to the ground.

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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Late rally as small buyers come in

Equities and gilts stayed in the grip of indecisive rumour and counter-rumour but eventually settled for a bullish view of the day's events.

The FT index, 3.3 up at 3 pm, closed 7.4 to the good at 489.7 as light buyers came in while on the fixed-interest pitches longer maturities, neglected in earlier trading, ended three-quarters of a point better.

Early firmness on the industrial pitches stemmed from a general feeling that the power workers' industrial action was crumbling and that the threat of even more severe measures was receding.

Later investors were encouraged by the Prime Minister's tough statement on wages in Parliament and, more particularly, an apparent drawing back by the miners from a confrontation with the Government in the immediate future.

**European Ferries hardened 1p to 35p** while the market rumoured that the plans of the group which had chartered the vessel in the Straits. Apparently creditors will meet on January 12 to decide whether the group is liquidated or not. **Euroferries** says: "The commercial impact on us will be minimal at worst."

Results from two major groups put the spotlight on the stores sector. After an initially uncertain reaction to figures from Boots the share closed lower at 22.4p but the statement from W H Smith contained all that dealers had been hoping for including the long-awaited share split. The "A" shares closed 25p to the good at 32.5p. Elsewhere in the sector Sainsbury continued to react to Wednesday's warning on margins losing another 9p for a close of 20.8p but Tesco was surprisingly firm at 47p, half a point better.

The drinks pitch had a firm look even though figures from the independent Boddingtons lifted the price 7p to 10.6p and

others gaining ground included Guinness 5p ahead to 19.0p and Distillers where the rise was 4p to 16.9p.

On the bid scene Morgan-Grampian rose another 10p to 16.5p ahead of the news of terms worth 200p from Kruglar House Investments which were also better, by 3p to 14.1p. Speculative interest brought some good gains for Western Brothers at 58p and Miln Marsters which went ahead several pence, to 23.5p in a thin market. For the last named a Swedish stake is a continuing incentive. Goode Durrant went up 4.1p to 25.5p after news of the sale of a subsidiary.

Abrasive International were 33p better at 22p before they were suspended on news of a possible takeover approach.

The recently-troubled East Midlands Press dropped 3p to 70p while P & Penson to announce a rights with the shares trading at 23p. Higher hopes on the Daily Mirror dispute gave a firmer look to Reed International which held steady at 13.4p after several days of retreat.

Though trading was generally thin the "blue chips" scored some of the best gains of the day. Standing out were Unilever which rose 6p to 56.6p, Beecham 5p to 63.0p, Pilkington 8p to 50.9p, Rowetter 6p to 16.9p and ICI 3p to 38.9p, the last named

helped by some degree of buying for the next account.

Buildings were flat though there were signs of life in the speculative Marchview which ended 7p to the good at 25.5p, and Tilbury Contracting which rose 4p to 24.4p. But BFB came under some pressure ending the session 3p off at 22.4p.

Also in retreat was Ultramar which lost 3p to 22.2p after nine months figures which failed to live up to the market's best hopes. Oil Exploration was another losing ground the shares closing 4p lower to 27.2p. Foods featured, Tate & Lyle, which was supported at 18.9p, up 6p on the day.

In spite of a loss Common Brothers firmed 2p to 19.0p after several weeks of losing ground. Furness Withy, up 3p to 33.9p, was another to move higher.

After the less than pleasing figures from General Accident earlier the insurance sector had a firmer look with Sun Alliance rising 5p, to 59.0p, Phoenix 4p to 48.0p and brokers, Higgs, Robinson 7p to 18.0p and Willis Faber 5p to 27.2p. General Accident itself ended a couple of points to the good at 24.2p.

Some of the firmest spots in the market were to be found again in the banking banks which continued to make headway on recent favourable figures. The best was Midland, up 10p to 36.5p.

A big boost in the dividend had Port Farms again a strong mover, rising 20p to 36.5p and ahead of figures due soon Wilkinson Match ended 6p to the good at 18.9p. Trebled profits from Tate of Leeds, lifted the shares 3p to 36p.

**As this week's selling dried up, Glaxo held steady at 55p.** One seller is reported to have been getting rid of up to 25,000 shares a day this week, but the bid is now thought to have finished. The shares have now fallen a long way from the 64.3p at the start of the account, a level mainly achieved on wide spread, talk of a dividend-booster acquisition.

After hours short-dated gilts improved, a fraction, on the Prime Minister's words.

Many of the leading industrialists went another penny or so better, and Boots managed to get back some of its earlier fall. Equity turnover on November 10 was 689,670, (16,855 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to "Exchange Telegraph", were ICI, BAT, DfD, Beecham, Britannia, Arrow, Racal, Distillers, Ultramar, BP, Sainsbury, Courtauld, BP, partly-paid, Eagle Star, Shell, Orme Development, Barclays, General Accident, Wilkinson Match and Highland Distillers.

## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Turnover	Div	Pay	Year's
Fin	£m	£m	£m	pence	date	total
Almalt Ltd (1)	(—)	1.5(1.1)	3.6(2.7)	1.0(0.8)	3/1	(3.8)
Almalt Ltd (2)	(—)	0.15(0.13)	3.9(3.0)	1.2(1.0)	9/12	(2.5)
Almalt Ltd (3)	(—)	0.55(0.53)	12.1(10)	2.0(1.7)	9/12	3.9(3.5)
Boots (1)	8.1(6.5)	1.3(1.2)	1.0(0.97)	6/1	(1.8)	(1.8)
Boots (2)	39.7(32.7)	4.7(4.7)	4.7(4.7)	6/1	(1.8)	(1.8)
Brown Shipley (1)	2.0(0.8)	0.5(0.4)	0.5(0.4)	3/1	(5.2)	(5.2)
Common Bros (F)	(—)	0.5(0.4)	0.5(0.4)	3/1	(5.2)	(5.2)
Electra Int (1)	2.7(2.2)	0.4(0.3)	0.4(0.3)	6/1	(1.8)	(1.8)
Electra Int (2)	4.6(4.4)	0.13(0.12)	0.13(0.12)	15/12	(2.5)	(2.5)
Green P (F)	2.3(2.0)	0.4(0.29)	0.4(0.29)	15/12	(2.5)	(2.5)
King & Sherr (1)	2.5(2.1)	0.2(0.2)	0.2(0.2)	22/12	(1.5)	(1.5)
Long & Ham (F)	11.5(9.7)	0.6(0.52)	0.6(0.52)	4/1	(1.4)	(1.4)
Pedding's (F)	10.5(9.5)	0.56(0.40)	0.56(0.40)	3/1	(1.7)	(1.7)
Porte (F)	1.5(0.80)	0.2(0.2)	0.2(0.2)	4/1	(0.85)	(0.85)
Rader (F)	6.3(4.9)	0.5(0.40)	0.5(0.40)	3/1	(1.7)	(1.7)
Rockfast (F)	4.5(5.0)	0.24(0.09)	0.24(0.09)	2/12	8.0(6.7)	8.0(6.7)
Sandhurst M (F)	3.1(2.9)	0.11(0.04)	0.11(0.04)	2/12	8.0(6.7)	8.0(6.7)
W. R. Smith (1)	23.5(18.3)	4.6(3.2)	4.6(3.2)	2/12	8.0(6.7)	8.0(6.7)
Tate & Lyle (1)	167.2(151.0)	10.7(8.5)	10.7(8.5)	2/12	8.0(6.7)	8.0(6.7)
Tate & Lyle (2)	6.5(5.2)	0.15(0.07)	0.15(0.07)	2/12	8.0(6.7)	8.0(6.7)
Ulmar (1)	351.3(415.4)	15.4(7.0)	15.4(7.0)	2/12	8.0(6.7)	8.0(6.7)
Ulmar (2)	2.2(2.3)	0.002(0.002)	0.002(0.002)	2/12	8.0(6.7)	8.0(6.7)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown a gross basis. To establish the net dividend by 1.51. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. A Loss: B Forecast. C Yn.

## Middle East link plan by Benfield

Benfield and Loxley, which has not paid an ordinary dividend for the past two years, is planning to forge links with Middle Eastern interests.

Subject to exchange control permission, an agreement has been signed with Grange Nominees, a Guernsey-registered company, which holds 145,000 ordinary shares in Benfield (14.8 per cent) as nominee for Middle Eastern Enterprises (Guernsey), a Guernsey-registered firm which is owned by the Trustees of a foreign settlement under which Mr Waleed Kundi is a discretionary beneficiary.

If shareholders agree, Mr D. W. Olney, chairman of Benfield, and Grange, acting as nominee for Middle Eastern Enterprises, will each subscribe for 75,000 ordinary shares at 20p each, being the par value of the shares. This substantially exceeds the current market value of the shares.

At the same time, Mr D. W. Olney, Mrs K. Olney and the Trustees of the family settlement for the benefit of Mrs Olney's children, will enter into options entitling Grange to acquire on or before December 31, 1979, a further 48,679 ordinary shares in Benfield at 12p a share, so as to enable the interests of Grange to equal those of the Olney family.

Following the passing of the ordinary resolution and completion of the subscription arrangements, Mr D. W. Olney will transfer to Grange 40,000 shares in Benfield, being part of his current holding, at 12p a share.

Pending the exercise by Grange of the options, Mr Olney will hold 280,800 shares (24.96 per cent) of the enlarged capital and Mrs Olney and the Trustees of her family settlement will together hold 154,056 shares (13.69 per cent) and Grange 337,488 shares (29.98 per cent). Mr Kundi will be invited to join the board. He is the managing director of one of the largest furniture companies in Dubai.

## EMAP pay 25pc more with 'rights'

By Our Financial Staff

The recently strike torn provincial newspapers group East Midlands Allied Press is asking shareholders for £800,000 through a one-for-four rights issue in "A" ordinary shares at 50p. This represents a 19p discount on the market price, down 3p to 69p yesterday.

The cash will be used to strengthen the capital base and help in financing operations which are expected to grow. No addition to permanent capital has been made since early 1976 when the group raised £470,000 with a 1.5 million share placing. The subsequent general replacement programme and increase in working capital requirements have been financed through retained profits and borrowings.

News of the cash call came with the promise of a 25 per cent rise in total dividends this year. A final payment of 3p gross will give shareholders a total of 5.5p against 4.3p, and the Treasury agrees.

In the 28 weeks to October 15 the group made pre-tax profits of £803,000 against £365,000 on turnover up from £7.3m to £9.7m. This upward trend is expected to continue, Mr Frank Rogers, chairman, forecasts profits for the year of around £1.35m, an increase of just over a quarter on £1.07m.

In the period to mid-October each of the five companies in the provincial newspaper division substantially improved on last year's results, despite the prolonged journalists' strike at

Kettering. Production difficulties there are gradually being overcome and the sales of the Evening Telegraph are rising slowly.

In the contract printing division, work is on schedule for the erection of the new contracts press. Provisions amounting to £1.35m have been made for additional costs.

In the retail division Abbeygate Travel has done better with the Fourwinds tour operating business now in profit. Readwell, the retail newsagency business, has also done well.

Results from the group's weekly publications are also up and an increase in advertising rates, at the beginning of last month should help the second half figures.

## ITT looks to record 1977 results

International

International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, the American conglomerate with interests in insurance, finance and natural resources, continued overall growth in both domestic and foreign operations which underpinned confidence that sales and earnings will reach record levels for the full year, Mr Harold Geenen, the chairman says.

In 1976 ITT had record revenue of \$11,700m (about £6,800m).

The 1977 nine-month earnings included a gain of 14 cents a share from the sale of Avis common stock. The 1976 nine-month period included a gain of 67 cents a share on the sale of its 68 per cent interest in Le Matériel Téléphonique, a French unit.

Mr Geenen said that third quarter earnings were increased by 18 cents a share as a result of the translation of foreign currencies compared with a loss last year of 10 cents a share. For the nine months, he said, earnings were increased by 49 cents a share. "Of which," he said, "only 4 cents related to exchange rate changes since the beginning of the year."

The total order backlog at September 30 amounted to

International

\$5,200m, compared with \$4,600m a year ago.

EIF-Aquitaine boost

Société Nationale Elf-Aquitaine, the French state-controlled oil company, has posted sales of 23,000m francs (about £2,800m) for the first nine months of this year, up by 15.8 per cent from the year earlier total of 19,900m francs.

The company said that during the period under review it received portfolio revenue of 170m francs, up from 96m a year before.

Elf-Aquitaine gave the following figures for sales of its main subsidiaries: Aquitaine Company of Canada 750m francs against 675m; Société Métallurgique Le Nickel (jointly owned by Elf-Aquitaine and Inceal) 1,000m francs against 842m; Ato-Chimie 2,500m francs against 2,000m; Samot 1,200m francs against 1,100m.

Gulf and Western

Gulf and Western Industries of the United States says that it has agreed to sell its citrus and

cattle operations in Florida to a group of individual buyers for about \$44m (about £25.8m) in cash. The sale is due to close early next year and will involve a total of 58,000 acres of citrus crops, improved and unimproved pastureland and 8,700 head of beef cattle in east and south central Florida. The transaction includes all of the citrus and cattle operations of the company's consumer and agricultural products group.

Ennia insurance issue

Randa NV, a Dutch group of insurance companies has announced plans to float a £100m (about £21.7m) bond loan due 1978-87 at a 7.75 per cent coupon. The price of issue will be announced on November 16 and the subscription period will be closed on November 18. It was announced by the syndicate comprising Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank, Abn-Amro Bank, Nederland, Nederlandsche Middestandsbank, Piarson, Helander in Pierson, Slavenburg's Bank and Van der Hoeve, offices in London, through the Dutch Bank, Abn-Amro Bank Corporation (Overseas) £100m of the bond loan will be placed abroad.

Up jump shares in Abrasives: Bid talks on

Talks are on at Abrasives International which might lead to a bid. Just before the news prompted a suspension of the shares, they jumped from 18p to 22.4p giving a capitalisation of £240,000.

This is the Solihull-based maker of descaling decumulating and metal finishing machines which was the scene of a family clash.

Mr Colin Ashworth, a big shareholder, the son of the group's founder, and brother of the chairman, called a meeting in August in an attempt to remove the existing directors and replace them with himself and three others. The board won with a heavy majority.

At the time, Mr Stewart Ashworth, chairman, said that profits for the year to December would be about £80,000.

## Ship sale may put Common Bros back into black at end of year

By Alison Mitchell

Tossed on the troubled waters of its own profit and loss account, shipping group Common Brothers, sailed into the red in the year to June 30 last with a pre-tax loss of £564,000 against a previous profit of £1.1m.

But the sale of newspaper carrier AC Crobie, since the year end, will result in a £1m overall improvement in the current period, according to Sir Rupert Speir, chairman.

Over the past few months, the share price of the Newcastle-based company has proved to be as volatile as the profits.

The shadow of the two major holders, Swan Hunter and Eric Brown, and Commonwealth, has prompted much speculative buying and a subsequent increase in the price.

But City forecasts of a firm loss and to dividend this time round cut almost 50p off the share in recent weeks. Yesterday they closed 2p firmer at 19p.

Last year the group's four product tankers, operating in a particularly difficult market, covered the group's losses, but made some contribution towards depreciation.

## LWT future is most encouraging

Better than forecast figures are reported by LWT (Holdings), the parent of London Weekend Television, which came to the market through an introduction in June.

With a 20 per cent higher £31.45m in the year to July 24, pre-tax profits were 17 per cent greater at £5.25m, compared with the board's prediction of £4.5m. The Exchange Levy, deducted before arriving at pre-tax profit, was up from £4.4m to £6.01m.

As forecast, a total dividend of 3.57p gross is being paid, which is 1.5 pence covered. Earnings per share rose from 13.85p to 16.89p.

Chairman of groups dependent on television advertising revenue do well to be cautious in their forecasts. Mr John Freeman, LWT's chairman, says, however, "I continue, at this stage the current year's trading prospects are most encouraging."

Commodities and other market reports are on page 24.

In the first half-year, pre-tax profits rose from £2.23m to £2.53m, after the levy took £2.96m, against £2.55m. Turnover was up from £12.38m to £14.52m. The board reported at the time that advertising at the time that advertising was running at a "satisfactory level" above the previous year, and the year's figures were expected to be better.

LWT owns a freehold complex, Westbury, containing a 7,500 sq ft office, the South Bank Centre, which is leased, comprises a studio complex and tower office block, has a contract with the IBA expires in July, 1979.

## Dividend bonus from Pork Farms

The second half of the year has started well at Pork Farms and the board's interim results for the year to be substantially above those for 1976-77. These were £1.9m.

Results of the Nottingham-based maker of sausages and other foodstuffs, for the year to August 27 show a rise in pre-tax profits of 50 per cent to a record £1.3m. Turnover increased from £13.4p to £15.8m. Because the company is classified as a close company, it is likely that it will be required to pay increased dividends to comply with the close company provisions.

At present, the group has declared an interim dividend of 12.1p gross compared with 5p for the corresponding period.

Fresh peak likely at Brown Shipley

Another record seems likely this year from Brown Shipley Holdings, the merchant banking, insurance, leasing and investment group. As usual, it is not revealing its results. But it does say that profits for the half-year to September 30 showed a "marked increase", and profits for the full year should compare favourably with those for 1976-77.

These were a best-ever £1.48m, after tax. The banking side's results show a material improvement, and the insurance section continued to make progress. The interim dividend rises from 5.39p to 6.00p gross and the board intends to pay a maximum total for the year.

## 1-for-1 rights from W.L. Pawson

The latest step on the road back of W. L. Pawson & Son, the Halifax clothing group is a one-for-one rights issue at 17.5p a share. This compares with about 23p in the market before the news.

The board reorganised with the appointment of four new directors on October 3, expects the issue to bring in £225,000 to reduce borrowings. It also hopes to pay a small dividend for the year to December 15, to put the group back in the black.

Pre-delivery interest on ships under construction sucked £35,000 from profits but two of the six general cargo vessels ordered by associate company Gomla Shipping (Jersey) have now been delivered.

The first of these was sold to a Moroccan company, Atlas, at a profit, and the other has been demised chartered for five years at a satisfactory rate, the chairman reports.

Common Brothers has bought 20 per cent of the North African company which, at present, only operates the one ship.

The group's 50 per cent share of the operating loss of the bulk carrier chartered by Bowring Common (Chartering) is reflected in the result and a provision of £280,000 has been made to cover the final 12 months of the charter.

The group has also had to stand a below-the-line cost, totalling £128,000 arising from the weakness of sterling against the Deutsch mark.

But there are calmer waters ahead. The chairman anticipates a profit at the end of the current year, on the back of the sale of the Crobie ship.

A final dividend of 5.7p gives shareholders a total for the year of 8.8p against a previous 7.8p.

However, Mr Carter, joint managing director, reveals that there are no signs yet of any revival. The shares are mainly rumormongers' or short-term time charter.

The "roll-on roll-off" vessels shipped in with a satisfactory contribution. This would have been even better but for the major machinery breakdown on the Caribbean Progress, set up for around two months.

## Over 60pc of George Sturla placed by Rowe Rudd

By Victor Feist

With the news that more than 60 per cent of the equity of loss-making George Sturla has changed hands, comes word of a rights issue at par.

Sturla's board reported yesterday that it has been told that Mr A. Dobson, chairman, has sold his holding of 54,000 ordinary shares, or 13.5 per cent of the equity, and resigned from the board. Mr Dobson, who has sold 2m shares, or 47.2 per cent, within the last year.

These holdings have been placed through the market with private and institutional clients of broker Rowe Rudd and Co. Sturla's board has also agreed with the company's

## Boddingtons wants a penny on a pint as it strives to brew enough ale

By Michael Clark

At a time when national beer sales are virtually flat, Boddingtons, the real ale brewery has managed a real increase of 24 per cent. The Lancashire-based group in which Whitbread Investment has a 26 per cent stake, reports a rise in pre-tax profits of five per cent to £1.34m for the six months to June 30.

Turnover jumped from £6.5m to £8.1m giving some indication of the growing popularity of locally brewed real ale. The board has decided to pay an interim dividend of 3.0p and proposes to pay a final dividend in May 1978 of 2.89p, making a total of 5.89p gross compared with 5.39p for the corresponding period.

Trade in the second half, mainly buoyant and present indications are results for the whole year will show a further

improvement over those for 1976.

Mr Edward A. Boddington, chairman, says that the lower return on the investment in real ale, which has been reflected in the share price, is a price which the group must pay for its commitment to the real ale market.

Last year the group reported a rise in pre-tax profits from £1.22m to £1.29m and turnover grew by 41 per cent to £14.5m. This period covered a frost-killed hot and dry summer.

Earlier this week Whitbread, the first of the big breweries to report, showed a slight drop in interim pre-tax profits from £2.2m to £2.15m. The major brewery, said Mr George Hattersley, the Prices Secretary, in a few weeks' time to discuss the Price Commission report-Boddingtons already has a 1p a pint rise on its beers in the pipeline.

The chairman adds that it is encouraging that sales of the group's beer, once again rose strongly. However, it is not clear that the growth of Boddingtons' free trade business because it did not have enough brewing capacity.

The investment programme to deal with this is already contributing to output. It is going ahead on schedule and should be completed by mid 1978.

There will be a new brewery complex on the same site as the present one at Strangeways—next door to the prison of the same name. The new plant came into operation last July.

It should double the group's capacity. Total cost to the group should be about £1.6m which will be covered by a strong cash flow as well as the cash from last year's rights issue.

## Goode, Durrant &amp; M raises £10m in big sale

Momentous changes are taking place within Goode Durrant & Murray, the international finance and property group.

Goode Durrant has now decided to sell the UK investment credit business, including United Kingdom Guarantee Corporation, and Goode Durrant Trust, to Security Pacific of the United States.

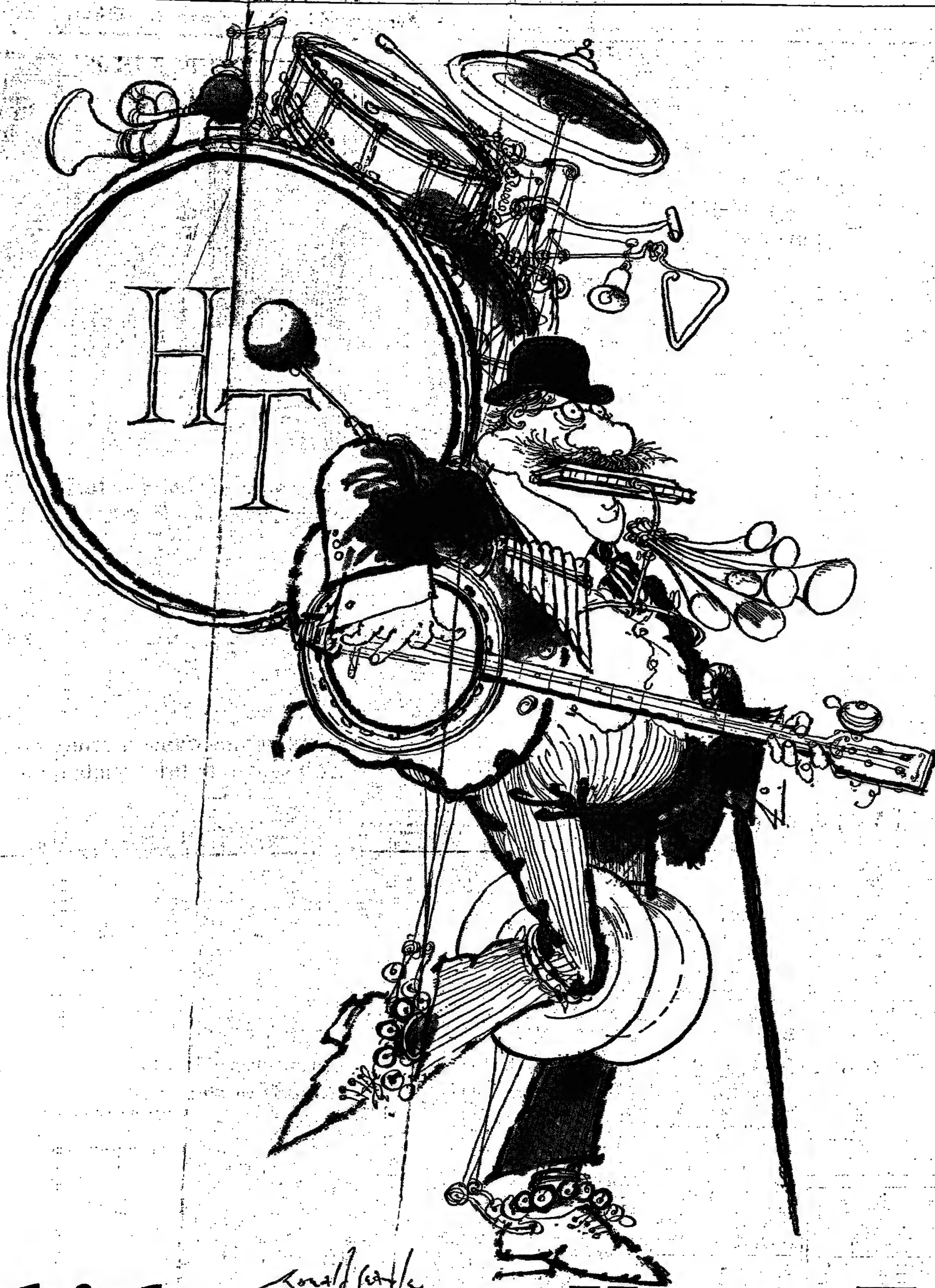
The group has also sold quoted investments with a book value of £14.4m. The directors expect that the money £10.1m all told, most of it payable at once—will be used to reduce UK borrowings.

The profits that depart to Security Pacific were around £100,000 in the year to October 31, and the gross dividends on the investments sold were £180,000.

The directors stress the need for speed. The sale of the investment credit business, without seeking shareholders' prior approval, was made because the board considered that the delay and loss of confidentiality which would have resulted would not have been in the best interests of shareholders and the continuing business.

The background to these swift moves is the discount by the group into £508,000 of losses from £112,000 of losses by the group in the half year to April 30, last.





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What has set Hanson Trust apart is our specific policy of investing in basic markets through companies which have management potential and sound assets. We then give management the freedom they need (apart from rigid financial control) to

produce the kind of earnings we look for. Thus each Hanson Trust company controls its own performance. There are men at the head of Hanson Trust companies, not puppets.

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In following the policy of developing good management, Hanson Trust has laid a solid foundation for growth. In fact, so many people have had their attention diverted by Hanson Trust's acquisitions, they may be unaware that our organic growth has been sustained and makes an increasing contribution to profits. This is a direct and continuing result of the Hanson Trust philosophy of making the most of its people as well as its other assets. And because we are committed to growth through managerial excellence, we are not about to relinquish the hard won positions our companies have achieved. Indeed, we have never bought companies to sell because we

firmly believe that to be a cynical and destructive policy which has emasculated more than its fair share of sound management teams.

## You can't argue with facts

There have been a great many different opinions about Hanson Trust. But the facts remain that, while the argument continues, Hanson Trust also continues to achieve good quality earnings through excellent management. And what is more, it is a broad based management which means that, although we may blow our own trumpet from time to time, we are definitely not a one man band.

## Hanson Trust

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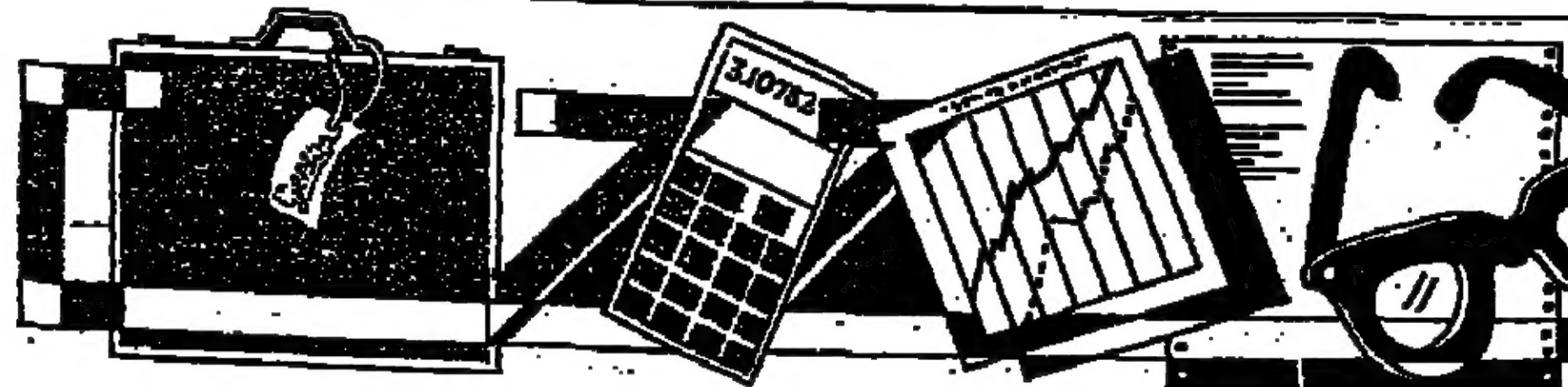




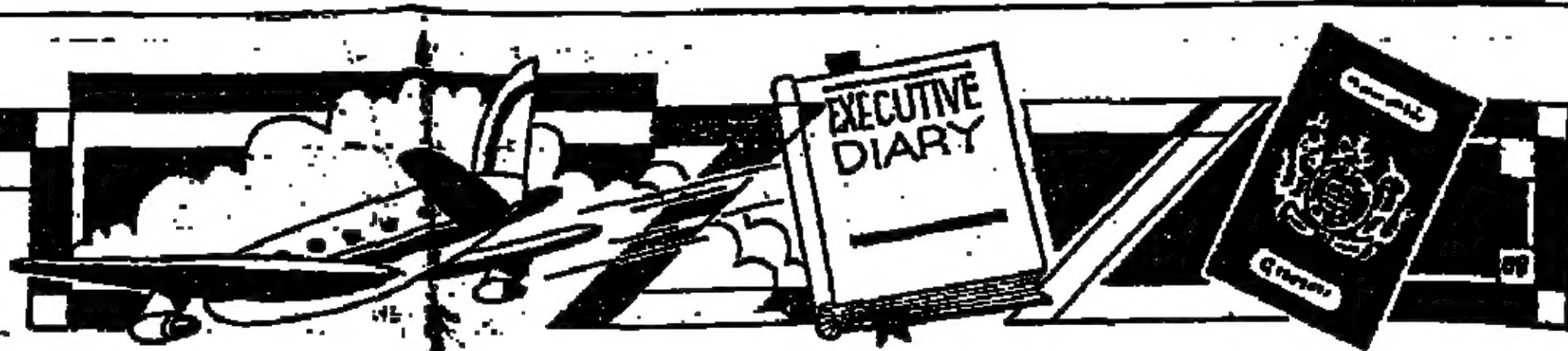








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Remuneration for Engineers and Supervisors will be the equivalent of between UK£5,700 and UK£7,300 per annum. The starting salary will depend on qualifications and experience.

In addition there will be generous housing, transport and medical benefits. Employment will be on contract terms with a minimum of two years.

Applications giving full personal details and experience should be sent to: Personnel Manager, KENYA AIRWAYS LTD., P.O. Box 19002, Nairobi, Kenya, so as to reach him not later than 9 December, 1977.

The successful applicants will reside in Nairobi, which is a modern city enjoying beautiful climate and with many sporting and social amenities.

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Major Oilfield Drilling Contractor Company have career employment vacancies for applicants who are well qualified for Oil Field work in Home or Overseas locations.

Excellent earnings, good advancement prospects, insurance coverage, etc.

Send résumé plus passport type photograph, quoting Reference PB 228, to: Peter F. Brandon, Director—Recruitment.



**Walter Judd Limited**  
(Recruitment Division)  
1a Bow Lane London EC4M 9EJ  
Tel: 01-236 4541

## Assistant to the Technical Development Manager

A company eminent in the field of chemical and catalyst manufacturing wish to recruit an experienced Chemist or Chemical Engineer to assist in running their Technical Development Department. The current development programme includes new catalysts, chemicals and technologies for use in refineries, petrochemical plants and oil fields.

Involvement in these development projects will ideally suit someone experienced in the oil/petrochemical industry or anti-corrosion field. Apart from relevant experience, candidates should have the ability to progress projects from inception through to successful commercial trials.

Excellent terms and conditions of employment. Location: North London based.

Box 0015 K, The Times

## MARKETING MANAGER European Law Publisher

A rapidly expanding publishing company in the field of European Law requires an energetic and imaginative executive to develop and lead an effective marketing team. The successful male or female will have relevant experience and a proven marketing ability and will be willing to travel. Fluency in French and German or other European languages in addition to English, would be a valuable asset as would some knowledge of law.

The Marketing Manager, directly responsible to the Managing Director, will be based in London and the salary will reflect the importance of this key post.

Please ring for an interview:

Jennifer Roberts,  
Thomson Publications Limited,  
Elm House, Elm Street,  
London WC1X 0BP. Tel. 01-278 2345, extn. 33

## Bentalls

Founded in 1867

## The Bentall group of independent department stores wish to appoint a FURNISHING MERCHANDISE CONTROLLER

to take charge of its buying team of all furnishing departments, including furniture, carpets, soft furnishings, bedding, linens and lighting. The successful applicant must have extensive and successful buying and marketing experience in this field.

Commencing salary £8,000 per annum, with valuable fringe benefits, including company car, pension scheme and retirement benefits plan, staff discount and private medical insurance. Removal expenses to London area will be met.

Apply in confidence with details of age, training and experience, to:

L. E. ROWAN BENTALL, CHAIRMAN, BENTALLS LTD.  
KINGSTON UPON THAMES, SURREY KT1 1TX.

## AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL FOOD RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Reorganisation of the activities of the Food Research Institute has created two vacancies in the Senior Principal Scientific Officer grade. Applications are invited for these two posts.

### Head of the Chemistry Division

Applicants should have a broad qualification in Chemistry and distinction in a relevant research area with a biological or biochemical background since a significant element of biochemical research will be included in this Division. Physical and biological interests will be the responsibility of a parallel division to be created in the near future. Experience related to the interests of the Food Institute will be of especial value. The total staff of the Division will be approximately 40, including at least six Principal Scientific Officers and support staff divided into groups broadly concerned with Lipid Carbohydrate, Protein, Natural Product and Biochemistry in relation to food.

### Head of the Nutrition and Food Quality Division

This is the first appointment to head a significant new development in the Food Research Institute. Applicants should have very broad experience in nutrition and a distinguished record of research in nutrition related to man. Food composition as well as physiological interests are required and the programme to be developed will be carried out in the closest possible collaboration with the ARC Dunn Nutrition Laboratory, Cambridge. The present food quality group, which is primarily concerned with sensory problems, will also be the responsibility of the person appointed and will form a section in the new Division concerned with aspects of the acceptability of food.

The Institute is housed in virtually new laboratories in Norwich and takes a major role in the ARC research effort on food in the U.K. Further details are available in a document which outlines some of the proposed developments.

The salary range for these appointments is £8,335 to £10,000 per annum, including house II pay supplement, and there is a non-contributory superannuation scheme.

Further particulars and application forms are available from the Secretary, ARC Food Research Institute, Sainsbury Laboratory, Wye, Kent, to whom they should be returned by November 26, 1977.



## Direct Works Manager

£9751-£10525 (inclusive of supplement)

This post, which is open to both men and women, will be responsible for the management of the Building Department which carries out repairs and maintenance to all municipal buildings including schools. Present expenditure estimates £4 million. It is essential that applicants have had considerable management experience in the construction industry in a senior capacity.

The Direct Works Manager will, through the Building Sub-Committee, be wholly responsible for the management of the Building Department which has a staff of 35 officers and 600 manual employees.

No new major construction work is being undertaken although it is envisaged that such work will re-commence when the necessary controls have been established. It will be an initial responsibility of the Direct Works Manager to assist in erecting such controls and submitting his recommendations on the structure and operational and committee reporting patterns which will provide the most efficient service for all Council Departments. The Direct Works Manager will be required to use costing and financial planning in conjunction with the Borough Treasurer who is charged by the Council to provide an accounting, costing and financial advisory scheme direct to the Direct Works Manager.

In addition to any duties as described, the Direct Works Manager will be required to undertake all other responsibilities related to the nature of the post as the Council may, from time to time, delegate and all duties will be subject to revision as the Council may determine.

This post is of Chief Officer status and accordingly, the Direct Works Manager will be required to contribute to the general management of the Authority.

Application forms and further details from the Establishment Officer, Town Hall, Barnsley S70 2TA.

Closing Date 25th November, 1977.  
**BARNSELEY**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE POST OF

### DIRECTOR

from persons with appropriate professional qualifications and administrative and organisational experience.

The Association is controlled by a Council of members, whose policy is disseminated by a Central Office through the nine Regional Committees and offices throughout the United Kingdom.

Applicants will have a knowledge of the engineering industry, experience in dealing with Ministers, and Government departments, as well as commercial organisations and other bodies, and will be capable of assimilating present and future problems facing the industry.

The Director is the chief executive of the Association and serves on a number of government and industrial committees and is responsible to Council for the administration and financial supervision of the Association.

A salary will be negotiated reflecting the importance of this key post and the experience and qualifications of the applicant.

Applications giving details of background and career in confidence to:

The Director,  
Engineering Industries Association,  
Equitable House,  
Lyon Road,  
Barnrow HA1 2EG.

Applications must be received by 24.11.77.

## TECHNICAL MARKETING EXECUTIVE

to head up the new video marketing division of a leading consumer electronics manufacturer.

Applicants must have technical marketing experience in the related field of electronics. Superannuation scheme, company car and substantial salary for the right person.

Write in confidence to:  
Box 0031 K, The Times.

## SALES MANAGER/ESS

LUTON c. £6,500 + CAR

for

## Ultrasonic Cleaning CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Ultrasonic Cleaning, a division of Thermoplastic Compounds Ltd., has announced a new machine for cleaning plastic crates, etc.

The response has been enormous. Our immediate need is to satisfy the home market, but the overseas demand must be realised.

The successful applicant will be aged 35, with a proven record of selling mechanical handling equipment to the foodstuff industry.

The challenge is to take an embryonic company into the international league.

Please write to: Ultrasonic Cleaning, 44 Bilton Way, Luton Beds., LU1 1UU.

## CHIEF MEDICAL & RESEARCH OFFICER ROYAL HOSPITAL & HOME FOR INCURABLES PUTNEY & BRIGHTON

The Board of Management of this old-established voluntary hospital and home wish to fill the post of Chief Medical Officer & Research Officer for the direction of the care of 255 severely handicapped patients, mainly in the younger disabled category, including a recently completed separate school unit and charge of the full range of medical services supported by five specially employed Physicians. Additionally, the appointment will be responsible for the establishment and direction of a Research Department.

Preference will be given to those concerned with the long-term care and rehabilitation of the disabled. Degree, age, 50 to 55 years. A higher qualification is required. Commencing salary £15,000. Pension scheme interchangeable with N.H.S. Post life assurance.

Applications with C.V. and names of two referees to reach Col. M. F. Gordon-Wilson, Secretary to the Board of Management, R.H.H.I., West Hill, Putney, SW15 3SW, by 1.12.77 and from whom further particulars may be obtained.

## SENIOR NAVAL ARCHITECT NEWBURY, BERKSHIRE

Consulting Engineers engaged on U.K. and world wide ship building projects for wide range of ships of up to 5,000 GRT require a Senior Naval Architect with drive and initiative, aged about 40, to take charge of the Marine Division, with experience in ship design, detail construction and machinery installation. Organisation and administrative capability essential.

QUALIFICATIONS: Design & Drawing Office experience with degree or equivalent and membership of R.I.N.A.

SALARY: Negotiable according to experience. Modern offices in centre of Newbury. Pension Scheme and other benefits. Willingness to travel overseas essential.

Write or telephone for application form to:

Mr F. D. Hudson,  
Director—Marine Department,  
Shoosmiths & Partners Ltd.,  
Centre Offices,  
Newbury, Berkshire.  
Tel.: Newbury 46969.

## Appointments Vacant also on page 25

### GENERAL VACANCIES

#### ASSISTANT OFFICE MANAGER/MANAGERESS

required E.C.C.

Knowledge bookkeeping, shorthand and typing. Good salary. Commencing salary £26,000. Age 30+. 01-423 5474

### RESEARCH ASSISTANT

A Research Assistant is required for approximately 6 months to replace a retiring member of staff.

Applicants should have a degree or equivalent in a relevant field, preferably in Chemistry or Physics, and be able to work with a minimum of supervision. Salary £12,000 p.a. plus benefits. Applications to: Dr. J. H. Smith, Director of Research, 100, The Quadrant, London SW3 2JF.

### INTERIOR DESIGNER

Required with experience in all aspects of large commercial interiors, particularly hotels.

Please write with brief details to: Mrs. P. Mulvey, Copp Noddy Design Associates Ltd., 9-11, Justice Way, Old Church Lane, Chichester, Sussex, BN1 1JL.

### AUSTRALIAN Broadcasting Commission

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the post of Assistant Director of Programmes. The successful applicant will be responsible for the development and production of radio and television programmes.

For further details and application forms, please write to: Australian Broadcasting Commission, GPO Box 98, Sydney, NSW 2010, Australia.

### GENERAL VACANCIES

#### SUB-EDITOR FOR "DESIGN"

DESIGN MAGAZINE requires a sub-editor to take control of all copy, proof, layout and production. The successful applicant will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the magazine, ensuring that all copy is received and edited in time for publication. The sub-editor will also be responsible for the layout and design of the magazine, ensuring that it is visually appealing and easy to read. The successful applicant will be required to work closely with the editor and the production team. The salary is £12,000 p.a. plus benefits. Applications to: Design Magazine, 100, The Quadrant, London SW3 2JF.

### RESEARCH ASSISTANT

A Research Assistant is required for approximately 6 months to replace a retiring member of staff.

Applicants should have a degree or equivalent in a relevant field, preferably in Chemistry or Physics, and be able to work with a minimum of supervision. Salary £12,000 p.a. plus benefits. Applications to: Dr. J. H. Smith, Director of Research, 100, The Quadrant, London SW3 2JF.

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For further details and application forms, please write to: Australian Broadcasting Commission, GPO Box 98, Sydney, NSW 2010, Australia.

## Remember £6,000 plus Appointments appear every FRIDAY

## For details or to book your space ring

01-278 9161

or

Manchester

061-834 1234

## WEST AFRICA

### Technical Director

A well-established service company has an inviting opening in its West African based subsidiary for a Construction Manager with at least five years' overseas management experience in civil engineering and building construction.

The basic responsibilities will be to provide construction management, contracting planning, pre-construction control, cost control and customer relations.

The applicant should have proven records of managerial success, preferably a degree in civil engineering and the ability to function in Africa and/or similar countries.

Competitive salary, with excellent other benefits including family status arrangements, schooling and taxation are offered.

Resumes detailing previous project experience including remuneration details which will be treated in strict confidence should be sent to 24 Draycott Avenue, London SW2.

## ASSISTANT TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

A newly established commercial company active in large volume sales of heavy chemicals and plastics raw materials throughout Europe, affiliated to large U.S. groups, is seeking an Assistant to its Managing Director. The ideal candidate will be in his late twenties-early thirties, a graduate in Business Administration or Chemistry, experienced in marketing of the above products, fluent in French and/or German, and prepared for hard work and extensive travelling. Salary and other benefits commensurate with the challenging nature of the position.

Please reply in confidence, enclosing a detailed C.V. to:

PMP Data Bank Ltd.,  
31-36 Foley Street,  
London W1P 7LB

## University of London Industrial Relations Officer at least £8,556 p.a.

Applications are invited for the above post in the Establishment Division of the Department of Administration and Services. The Industrial Relations Officer is responsible for advising the University, its Schools and Institutes on conditions of employment and pay for all grades of staff and in conducting discussions and negotiations with representative organisations at national and local level. Relevant experience in the field of industrial relations is therefore essential.

Salary will be within range for Administrative Officer Grade IV of national salary structure for University Administrative Staff the minimum of which is £8,106 per annum (currently under review) plus £450 London Allowance and six weeks annual leave.

Further particulars from Mrs. Cousins, Personnel Office (I), University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, W1E 7HU. (Tel. 01-435 8000, Extension 15.) Closing date for receipt of applications is 30 November 1977.

## oxford polytechnic

Applications are invited for the post of

### Registrar

(£7,927-£8,527)

who, as the chief administrative officer is responsible to the Director for the administration of the Polytechnic, and is Clerk to the Governors. Applications, including a curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees, should be sent by 5 December 1977 to the Director, Oxford Polytechnic, Oxford OX3 0BP, from whom further particulars and application forms may be obtained.







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